# Scotch Plains NJ

## WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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#### **SCOTCH PLAINS DAY FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL**

The Township of Scotch Plains hosted the annual Scotch Plains Day Fall Family Festival on Sunday, October 6th, 2019, in the downtown district on Park Avenue.

The day featured family friendly entertainment including food trucks, interactive inflatables, vendors, and live music. Local community organizations also participated by setting up tables and distributing information about their causes.

up tables and distributing information about their causes.

In honor of the annual National Drive Electric Week an electric vehicle show was also held where residents had the chance to learn all about the benefits of plug-in vehicles. This is the second year the EV Show has highlighted at Scotch Plains Day.

The event was fun for all ages as Scotch Plains kicked off their Fun Fall Festivities.





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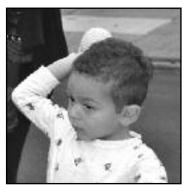












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#### **PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT**

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

Scotch Plains Monthly is online at www.rennamedia.com like us on facebook.com/ Scotch Plains Monthly



Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com

officially sworn in on September 16, 2019 by a police officer in Tewksbury, NJ. Mayor Colleen Mahr in the presence of his family, bible held by his grandfather. Tyler, 27, Fanwood.

Fanwood Police Officer Tyler Flowers, was is a resident of Scotch Plains and previously was

His twin brother and his family live in Photo by Borough of Fanwood





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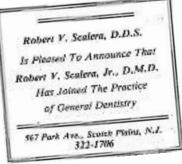
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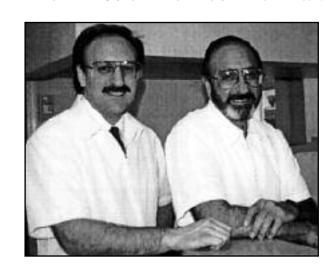
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#### BRIGADIER GENERAL CHRYSTAL SPEAKER AT VETERANS BREAKFAST

Submitted by Jim D'Arcy, Former Post Commander

Cranford VFW Post #335 has announced that the time and date of their annual Veterans Day Breakfast will be Sunday, November 10, 2019, 9 a.m. at the VFW Post Home at 479 South Ave., in Cranford. The featured speaker this year will be Scotch Plains resident Brigadier General Edward Chrystal.

This is a free "sit down" breakfast open to any and all area veterans. Local and state officials as well as Cranford students will be among those addressing the veterans at this highly attended event.

Featured speaker, Brigadier General Edward Chrystal, currently serves as the Land Component Commander, New Jersey Army National Guard. General Chrystal is responsible for the welfare, training and readiness of over 5,000 soldiers in New Jersey. He also currently serves as the Superintendent of Veterans Haven North, a transitional home for homeless veterans in Glen Gardner, NJ. He is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, being awarded a Bronze Star Service Medal and the Global War on Terror Service Medal, among others.

There is no reservation required for this free breakfast. The meal is prepared by members of the Post Auxiliary and served by local boy and girl scout members.



(above) Brigadier General Edward Chrystal will be the featured speaker at the Cranford VFW's annual Veterans Day Breakfast.

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The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club's first Trivia Night will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2019, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Shady Rest at Scotch Hills, Scotch Plains! Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the trivia starts at 7:30 p.m.

A professional game organizer will keep things fun by asking all levels of questions on a variety of topics, including entertainment, sports, news and general fun. This is sure to be a fun night out!

Tickets are \$25 per person in advance and \$35 per person at the door. The ticket price includes four rounds of fun trivia, pizza, snack food and soft drinks. This event is BYOB, so feel free to bring your favorite beer or wine. You can purchase fsprotarytrivia.brownpapertickets.com or send a check to Rotary Club Foundation, P.O. Box 426, Fanwood, New Jersey 07023.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available! For additional information, download the sponsorship form from fsprotary.org/events or send an email to fsptrivia@gmail.com. The deadline for sponsorships is Wednesday, November 6.

In addition, everyone will have a chance to win some great Tricky Tray prizes! All of the proceeds from the event will support the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club's various local and international projects.



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# 29TH SCOTCH PLAINS MAYOR'S CHARITY GALA FESTIVITIES ANNOUNCED

#### Submitted by Margaret C. Heisey

The Scotch Plains Mayor's Charity Gala Committee is pleased to announce the honorees and festivities for the 29th Annual Mayor's Charity Gala to be held on Friday, December 6, 2019 at Shackamaxon Country Club.

This year's Gala will honor the following individuals for their selfless service to our community:

# FEMALE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: KELLY PRICE MALE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: JIM CHECCHIO VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR: PATRICK'S DOWNTOWN RACE TO SUMMER COMMITTEE

"I am proud to know all of our honorees and am grateful for the selfless service, commitment and dedication to our community," said Mayor Al Smith. "I have witnessed their contributions first hand and can say they are more than worthy of this honor! Jim has been an active and dedicated supporter of the renovation of the Frazee House, Kelly volunteers her time each week at our Senior Café and the Patrick's Downtown Race to Summer Committee has brought one of the most popular events we offer to our downtown while raising money for various local charities."

The evening (7 p.m. - 11 p.m.) features a cocktail reception complete with open bar,

passed hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and eclectic food stations, a dessert buffet and, back by popular demand, the Hot Chocolate Bar! Members of the Moonglowers, from SPFHS and DJ Mike will provide entertainment for the evening. The Silent Auction and Tricky Tray are not to be missed! There are several levels of sponsorship available to support our honorees. Or, consider donating an item to the silent auction. Please contact Gala Committee Co-Chairs, Lisa Mohn at 908-322-4999 or Margaret Heisey at 908-939-8403 if you would like to make a contribution or donation to the event.

Proceeds from the event are donated to charities chosen by each of the honorees. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Scotch Plains Municipal Alliance. MAC is an organization that is dedicated to providing substance abuse prevention programs, activities, and education in the communities of Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

Tickets to the Mayor's Charity Gala may be purchased online by visiting scotchplainsnj.gov, clicking the "Recreation Registration" Community Pass link and selecting "2019 Mayor's Gala", or by calling the Scotch Plains Recreation Department at 908-322-6700 x223. Tickets are \$95 per person and tables of 10 may be reserved.



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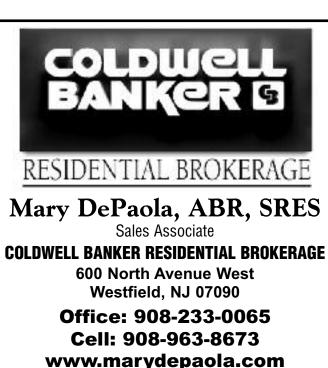






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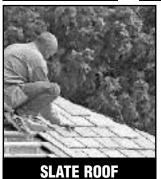




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# "A FEAST OF AMERICAN MUSIC," A SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT CONCERT

Submitted by Maureen Monroe

From colonial days to the present time, from the north, south, east and west, comes the music made in America and shared throughout the world. The Musical Club of Westfield is proud to announce its biennial Scholarship Benefit Concert, A Feast of American Music. This red, white and blue musical event, produced by Kay Macrae, will give thanks for the many cultures and talented people that have made American music unique. American quilts and bunting will decorate the scene; renowned Americans from history will accompany the artists.

Please join us at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street, in Westfield. Starting at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 24, Eric Deutchman and Debra Biderman will entertain the early arrivals with American favorites on accordion and fiddle. At 3:00, patriotic music by Robert Strauss and Rachel Markowitz, piccolos, signals the beginning of the concert. Alto Kim Gorman and pianist Joe Elefante continue with folk songs from colonial days. Fiddle music brings forward dancers for the Virginia Reel as called by Mistress of Ceremonies Elsa Hahn.

Next the spiritual heart of American music will come from the Sanctuary Choir of the First Seventh-Day Adventist Church of Newark; gospel chorales surround pianist Helen Ryba's performance of the nineteenth century spirituals captured in Florence's Price's sonata. Dr. John Wargacki intones the poetry of Walt Whitman's

"I Hear America Singing."

After intermission, the Florian Schantz combo will offer selections of Dixieland jazz, followed by modern jazz elements with clarinetist Chris Dellarso and pianist Mary Beth McFall. Chris also provides the clarinet introduction to Rhapsody in Blue played by pianist Carolle-Ann Mochernuk. Soprano Cynthia Sacco interprets Gershwin's Summertime. Joe Elefante returns to deliver a piano medley from Oklahoma! Soprano and bass-baritone Drude and Glen Crane join the entire ensemble in the finale This Land is Your Land.

As always, the after-concert reception to meet the artists will be a highlight of the afternoon. The reception, designed and coordinated by Magaly Docabo and Maryann Dolling, captures the spirit of an historic country harvest. Everyone is invited to sample the all-American delicacies.

The concert ticket donation of \$10 supports the Musical Club's college scholarships for talented Union County students majoring in music performance, composition, education, theater and therapy. The concert is made possible in part by a 2019 HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

For information about the concert or the Musical Club, please consult the website musicalclubofwestfield.org, email musicalclubofwestfield@gmail.com, or telephone 908-654-1036 or 571-262-9113.





### 1,200 VOLUNTEERS SPEND A DAY OF SERVICE IN SCOTCH PLAINS

Submitted by Ann Willets

Evangel Church of Scotch Plains sent approximately 1,200 volunteers out into the streets of Scotch Plains, Plainfield, Fanwood, and Woodbridge as part of Service for Service on Sunday, October 13, 2019.

Hundreds of volunteers packed over 118,000 meals for Feed My Starving Children, which will feed 324 malnourished children for just over a year. Other volunteers helped build two homes with Habitat for Humanity, while local first Superstorm Sandy, Service for Service volunteers

responders were treated to surprise lunches.

Another group of volunteers went to three public schools to paint, while some went to visit patients at the local veteran's hospital and nursing homes. In addition, over 50 local homes received some much-needed handiwork. Yet another group of volunteers helped rehab a room and kitchen at the Plainfield Cultural Arts Center. In total, over 30 projects were completed.

Birthed out of the havoc wrought by

give up one Sunday service every other year to take part in community service projects throughout the area. The idea is to show God's love in action.

"One of our core values is that We Live on Mission, and Service for Service is a living example of this. It was so exciting to see our congregation mobilize to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our communities," said Evangel's Senior Pastor, Chris Morante.

Anyone was able to sign up for Service for Service. Leading up to the event, Evangel Church sought recommendations for local community projects, such as residents who needed handiwork help.

"We asked God to lead us to our neighbors that needed to be reminded of His love. Our partnering organizations helped us identify projects that would have maximum impact. Service for Service creates opportunities to live out our value, 'We Row Together,' and this year, we really felt the power of it in action," Pastor Morante added. "I believe that the momentum will continue to build as we are faithful to love our neighbors in Christ's name."

About Evangel Church:

Over the past hundred-plus years, Evangel Church has grown from a small Germanspeaking church in 1914 to a large and diverse community with people from nearly every corner of the globe worshipping together in 2019. The church's vision is: "changed lives, changing communities." For more information, please visit evangelchurch.com/about-us.



(above) Service for Service volunteers rev up to pack 118,000 meals for Feed My Starving Children at Evangel Church in Scotch Plains that will ultimately feed 324 children in need for just over a year. The project was just one of many held throughout the day.

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The fully staged version of the classic holiday movie It's A Wonderful Life, adapted by Philip Grecian, will bring George Bailey, his family, friends and the town of Bedford Falls to life on the CDC Theatre stage beginning December 6, 2019. Located at 78 Winans Ave., in Cranford, NJ the theatre is celebrating its 101st season.

The beloved Everyman, George Bailey, who had dreams of adventure and travel has given his entire life to his community, only to have it unravel through the machinations of the selfish banker Mr. Potter. In his despair, George questions whether it would have been better had he never been born. Clarence, a befuddled angel who hasn't earned his wings yet, arrives to show him exactly what this wish might really mean.

When asked what inspired him to return to direct at CDC Theatre, Maurice Moran responded "I have always loved the movie version of this story – and the play follows that script very well – because I think it is important that we stop and

take stock of our lives now and then. How did we get from there to here? Who changed our lives by a word or work? And more importantly, whose lives have we touched along the way? And, keeping that in mind, how do we continue to affect people we meet? When my parents passed away, I was comforted by those who attended the funerals, illustrating how much these two people touched so many lives from so many walks of life. And I thought, wouldn't it have been nice for them to see that, too? George gets to see that and discovers that we all make a difference on this earth."

Boasting a large cast that ranges from 8 to 80, including a children's chorus of carolers singing holiday favorites, It's A Wonderful Life is a great way to usher in the holiday season! Running from December 6-15, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. with 2 p.m. matinees on December 8,14,15. Ticket and group sales information can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org.





(above, l-r) The Bailey family is getting ready for Christmas at CDC Theatre. Ben Bouffard as George Bailey, Rachel Zuckerman as Mary, Geovanna Ayala is Tammy, Olivia Kelly is Janie and Katia Bergstrom-Shaw is Zuzu.





#### **RESCUE SQUAD'S 2019 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE IS UNDERWAY**

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

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad has recently mailed a second round of fund drive letters, which emphasizes the importance of the services the organization provides. Scotch Plains residents have relied on this squad for emergency medical services for more than 82 years, and its volunteers respond to calls on a 24-hour basis, despite holidays and inclement weather.

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is committed to continuing this vital service to local residents. Only members of the squad organize the annual fund drive, which allows for the highest percentage of donations to be used for ambulances, up-to-date equipment, community outreach, and the training and outfitting of volunteers. The rescue squad also loans out wheelchairs, canes and crutches at no charge.

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad relies on ongoing community support. These taxdeductible contributions enable the squad to fulfill its motto, Neighbors Helping Neighbors. We Work For Pride Not Pay. So please take the time to read the letter and make a donation to this worthy organization. If you have already done so, thank you for your generosity.

For more information, contact scotchplainsrescuesquad@gmail.com or call 908-322-2103.

About The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is a volunteer organization of Neighbors Helping Neighbors. With over 90 volunteers, we answer calls not only in Scotch Plains but in surrounding towns as well when needed. Besides answering calls, you will see our ambulances at many special

events held in town, such as Scotch Plains Day, the Memorial Day Parade, high school football games, and the summer concerts on the Village Green. For more information, or to join our organization, please scotchplainsrescuesquad@gmail.com or call 908-322-2103 (non-emergencies only).









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#### **CALLING ALL VETERANS JOIN ROTARY FOR LUNCH!**

If you are a veteran, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club wants YOU...to join them for lunch! The Rotary Club is hosting the annual Veterans Appreciation lunch at their meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 12 p.m. at the Stage House Restaurant in Scotch Plains. They'll honor veterans in the club as well as veterans in the local community. They will pay tribute to those who served, those who continue to serve and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Veterans in the towns of Fanwood and Scotch Plains are invited to attend. To register for the event, Veterans can contact Wayne Zuhl at wayne.zuhl@gmail.com or 908-917-4189.

#### **FANWOOD-SCOTCH PLAINS ROTARY CLUB**

If you're passionate about serving your local community, are interested in working on international projects, or just want to change the world, then join the greatest **Rotary Club in the Universe!** 

Join us Wednesdays at 12:15PM The Stage House Park Avenue, Scotch Plains 1st time Guests-Enjoy a Free Lunch!

Website: fsprotary.org FB: Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary **Twitter: fsprotary Contact: Carmela at 908-499-4782** Serving Our Communities since 1938





#### **CELEBRITY AMBASSADOR HELPS RAISE FUNDS** FOR IMAGINE, A CENTER FOR COPING WITH LOSS

Submitted by Val Stierhoff

Imagine, A Center for coping with Loss, was extremely grateful that Kimiko Glenn, from Orange is the New Black, volunteered once again to be its celebrity ambassador at this year's Cantor Fitzgerald Charity Day on September 11. Each year Cantor Fitzgerald and its affiliates, BGC Partners and GFI Group, in conjunction with the Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund, commemorate their 658 friends and colleagues and 61 Euro Brokers employees who perished on September 11, 2001, by distributing 100% of the charity day's global revenues to the Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund and selected charities around the world.

Imagine was honored to be selected to participate in this event for the second year in a row and to once again have actor Kimiko Glenn as its celebrity ambassador. "We are so grateful to Cantor Fitzgerald and to Kimiko for saying yes to our request to participate in the day on behalf of Imagine," said Mary Robinson, Imagine Executive Director. "Year after year, Cantor Fitzgerald, through grit and perseverance, has been able to turn the trauma and devastation of the day into a contribution to the world, donating millions to charities around the world. Our nonprofit, which offers grief support services to children and families, is so fortunate to be one of them."

About Imagine

Imagine offers free year-round grief support groups for children age 3-18 who have had a parent or brother or sister die, and for families caring for a family member living with a lifealtering physical illness. Concurrent groups are available for parents and guardians, and young adults 18-30. Support groups meet on weekday nights for an hour and a half. Dinner is provided prior to the group meeting. To schedule an orientation for yourself or your family or for more information please contact Imagine at 908-

264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org.

About Cantor Fitzgerald

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(above) Mary Robinson, Imagine's Executive Director and Kimiko Glenn from "Orange is the New Black" at Cantor Fitzgerald Charity Day on 9/11. Kimiko, along with other celebrities, helped raise millions of dollars for charities around the world and for Cantor Fitzgerald's Emergency Relief Fund.

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#### **VOLUNTEER BIKE MECHANICS NEEDED**

Are you a hard-working individual who doesn't mind getting their hands dirty? We need people just like you to help with our Plainfield Bike Exchange! We are currently seeking volunteer bike mechanics to help repair and recondition pre-owned bikes. No experience is necessary, but it is preferred. Flexible hours are available Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturdays are especially needed from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Learn a new skill and meet new friends! For more information call 908-822-8672.

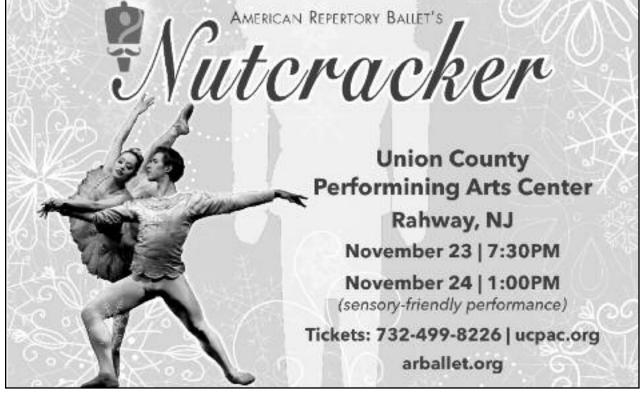
"If you are someone who likes to do hands-on projects, and enjoys fixing bikes on your free time, then the Bike Exchange is meant for you," said Russell Triolo, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County. "This is a great opportunity for a young individual to learn a new skill or continue to gain more knowledge in this type of field, and we are always happy to bring in new volunteers."

For information on our clubs and programs, please visit our website bgcuc.org or contact us

908-687-2697. Download our mobile APP free from Google Play or iTunes App Store to receive information on programs, activities, alerts and photos.

#### **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF UNION COUNTY**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County seek to inspire and enable young people, who need them most, to realize their full potential and have provided opportunity for youth since 1955. They are part of a national network of some 4,000 neighborhood-based facilities, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which serves more than 4.6 million young people annually, in all 50 states and on U.S. military bases worldwide. Clubs provide guidance-oriented character development programs on a daily basis for children 6-18 years old, conducted by a full-time professional staff. Key Boys & Girls Club programs emphasize leadership development, education and career exploration, financial literacy, health and life skills, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation, and family outreach.



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Deck the Halls, Christmas home decor November 19

Thrift Shop closed for Thanksgiving.

November 25 - 29

One Day Only "Black" Saturday Sale

November 30

Get the best prices on gifts and home items

#### **Christmas Boutique Begins**

December 3

all new, never used items and clothing available at prices not found at the malls.

December 21 - Thrift Shop closes at 1:00 p.m. December 22 - Thrift Shop Closed. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!

January 2 - Thrift Shop reopens 10 a.m.
Except for the Christmas Boutique, items are new or gently used. Cash only. Small denominations appreciated. Cannot guarantee acceptance of bills \$50 and above. First come,

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#### THE STARLET LETTER — SONGS FROM THE SILVER SCREEN

2019 show, The Starlet Letter: Songs from the Silver Screen on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 3 p.m. at the West Morris Mendham High School, 65 E Main St Mendham. Come hear movie favorites like Seasons of Love, Beauty and the Beast, Aquarius, and many more, sung in

Hickory Tree Chorus is excited to present their four-part acapella harmony. The show also features guest quartet Taylor Made and student singers from West Morris Mendham H.S. Buy tickets at tickets@hickorytreechorus.org, \$22 adults/\$17 students. Tickets also available at the door for an additional \$5/ticket.

The Hickory Tree Chorus, an award-winning

chapter of Sweet Adelines, International, performs fun-filled popular music, barbershop style. Founded in 1968 in Chatham Township, NJ, HTC currently rehearses in Stirling, NJ. Rehearsals are open to guests and auditions are year round. More hickorytreechorus.org.



(above) Hickory Tree Chorus will present their 2019 show, The Starlet Letter: Songs from the Silver Screen on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019 at 3 p.m.









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#### FRAZEE HOUSE HARVEST FESTIVAL 2019

Harvest Fest 2019 was held on Saturday. October 19, 2019. The annual event is spearheaded by Fanwood Scotch Plains Rotary Club volunteers and other community members. It benefits "Save the Frazee House" an effort to complete the renovation of the historic house located on the site of the event.

A record crowd came out to enjoy the beautiful weather and 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.

There was also "The Great Pumpkin Patch,"

where pumpkins were sold at the Frazee site.

"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.























Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Scotch Plains Monthly page on facebook.com. Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."





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#### THE ARC RAISES MORE THAN \$60,000 IN HONOR OF 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Along with more than 200 families and community supporters, The Arc of Union County celebrated 70 years of service to the community on Thursday, October 10, 2019. Supporters and vendors from throughout Union County together raised more than \$60,000, which will be invested in programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Attendees enjoyed raffles donated by more than 50 vendors throughout the county, including a wine pull raffle, a cash prize 50/50 raffle and a Bermuda cruise giveaway, along with unlimited food and drinks. A favorite local band, TreeOh!, performed decade favorites that highlighted the 70 years of our past, while a lively and enthusiastic crowd danced and celebrated a successful seven decades of service.

At the event, Executive Director of The Arc of Union County, Frank X. Caragher, spoke of the importance of the "lifespan of services provided by the agency," and the "longevity that families

of The Arc have come to rely on for seven decades." More stories of families and staff of The Arc of Union County were shared through video throughout the evening. Highlights of these stories can be viewed on The Arc's YouTube Channel. The mission of providing services to individuals and families of those with special needs has become a mission that our community embraces together. A supportive community helps individuals with special needs to be empowered to live their best life, while being included in opportunities for employment, building greater independence in their residential homes and neighborhoods, accessing education, recreational and social opportunities, and being supported in realizing a full, productive and enhanced life.

David Light, Board member of The Arc of Union County, shared a message about the importance of getting involved in the mission, what it means to his family and how getting involved in this community has made an impact on his life. He highlighted the fact that The Arc has grown to support more than 1,000 families throughout Union County and surrounding areas each year.

Thank you to all of the sponsors and supporters who helped make this event an unprecedented success, especially Presenting Sponsor, Investors Bank and Investors Foundation. Thank you to the community and families of The Arc for your continued support and making this evening a celebration to remember.

About The Arc of Union County

The Arc of Union County is a non-profit, 501c(3) organization headquartered in Springfield, NJ, dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc serves more than 1,000 families throughout Union County. To learn more, please contact 973-315-0000 or visit arcunion.org.



(above) The Arc of Union County celebrated 70 years of service to the community and raised more than \$60,000, which will be invested in programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.







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#### I AM MY BROTHER'S KEEPER! ARE YOU?

"Every day, nearly 22 veterans take their own lives. Our team is saving lives and providing a better way of life for our uniformed heroes."

Michael D. Boll, Director of New Jersey Veterans Network and United States Marine Corps Veteran

A few years ago, I was approached by a friend and co-worker of mine who expressed how extremely depressed he was and that he wanted to take his own life. Initially, I was completely shocked because this guy always seemed to be upbeat and happy all the time. Immediately, I asked him to come with me to a private office so we could talk about his awful situation. This was the first time in my life that I had a friend talk to me about suicide, and I knew I had to really do my best to help him get through this horrible ordeal. We spoke for a few hours and I listened closely to everything he said. I was able to convince him to immediately get some help and we went to the hospital. I stayed with him at the hospital and met with him when he was released. I did everything to show my friend that I had his back and because of this he is alive today. This awful situation inspired me to do whatever I possibly can to help others in need and shortly after we created our mobile outreach program.

In today's day and age, most of you have known a veteran or first responder that has taken their own life. Every day we lose nearly twentytwo veterans and approximately three hundred first responders every year to suicide. Even with all the awareness and new anti-suicide programs available, this number has not changed and, in some cases, has increased. The Veteran Hospitals' PTSD and mental health programs are packed with patients and unfortunately, they continue to grow. More of our first responders are also seeking help and utilizing some of the state programs being offered. So many people want to help and put an end to this crisis but sadly there isn't a foolproof program available that will stop this ever-growing crisis from destroying our uniformed heroes and their family's lives.

For the last two years our team has been working tirelessly with other charities to come up with a better solution to help prevent this epidemic from continuing. Personally, we believe our "Mobile Outreach Team" is really making a difference and everyday it helps our uniformed heroes live a better way of life.

The first thing we learned is to lose your "EGO" and seek out other groups and organizations that are looking to save lives. Then we find the right volunteers who are committed and dedicated with being a mentor to a person in crisis. Volunteers are extremely valuable because

they want to be there, and they usually care more than the people who get paid for their services.

To date, we have been able to change and save countless lives because of the incredible commitment from the volunteers and other supporting groups.

Our approach is to aggressively seek out and contact a veteran or first responder in crisis. Our goal is to immediately work on building trust by being completely honest with the person in crisis. Using our network is wonderful, but it's more important to show the person in need that we are there for them and won't give up. Usually, we go out and meet with those in crisis and spend whatever time is needed to help them get in a better frame of mind. Bottom line "Human Contact" and "Friendship" is the key to saving a life.

Our Mobile Outreach Team is unique because it consists of mentors from all over the state that are willing to do whatever it takes to save and change a life.

If you are interested in joining our team please feel free to contact me at (973)-332-1556 or email mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org.



(above) Operation Rebound if one of the outreach programs of the New Jersey Veterans Network. It is a mobile outreach team of mentors who help at-risk veterans and first responders to live a better life. The 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 in joining the Operation Rebound Racing Team please feel free to contact Michael Boll at mdbollio@optonline.net or call 973-332-1556.





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#### TICKETS ON SALE FOR SHINING STARS GALA, CHRISTMAS SHOW

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 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 45minute performance from the amazing and talented Shining Stars cast, along with a 50/50 raffle and auction items.

"This is a night we've been dreaming of having for quite some time," noted Shining Stars Network co-founder and President Mike Curci. providing opportunities in the performing arts, we felt a gala would be a wonderful way to introduce our special stars to the corporate community and other donors while raising funds that will allow us to grow our programs."

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.

"It's an exciting time for our organization and we continue to receive requests from those who want to join our cast," said Curci. "We know

Shining Stars Network, a non profit "As we continue to expand our mission of there's a need for what we are providing and our goal is to continue our mission of creating even more opportunities to be on stage in the future."

> "Being on stage builds self-confidence and self-esteem, which is something our stars take into their everyday lives," noted Shining Stars Network co-founder and co-director Sally Curci. "Friendships are built between cast members and our volunteer 'buddies' and these long-lasting bonds are just as important as the performing. Our goal is to provide more opportunities as possible for the special needs community."

> Tickets for the "Reach for the Stars" gala are available at shiningstars.booktix.com or you can email your ticket request 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 UCPAC.org/events. There will be a 10% discount on tickets through November 1 by using the code "holiday stars."

> Shining Stars Network, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non profit organization that shines the light on the special needs community by creating opportunities in the performing arts and other events. In addition, our Shining Stars Ambassadors basketball team travels to play local first responders and organizations with the goal of building friendships and understanding in an inclusive environment. The successful Camp Shine — a two-week special needs performing arts summer camp, just concluded their 3rd year.

#### SUMMIT OLD GUARD NOVEMBER EVENTS

If you are a retired male and have an interest in living an interesting life with like-minded men... new members are always welcomed. Meetings are held each Tuesday in the New Providence Borough Hall, 360 Elkwood Ave., New Providence, NJ, starting at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and conversation, followed by programs consisting of stimulating talks. After the meetings, many members join together to have lunch at various local restaurants.

For more information, contact James Hewitt, Chairman, Membership Committee, (908) 233-5507, info@SummitOldGuard.org. You can also visit summitoldguard.org.

#### **NOVEMBER SPEAKERS**

**NOVEMBER 5TH -** Dr. Merv Turner will discuss the need to develop new drugs for old diseases, especially malaria. Dr. Turner's talk will highlight the obstacles that had to be surmounted in the discovery of this molecule, which is just starting its journey towards the clinic to meet its foe.

**NOVEMBER 12TH** - wealth management advisors will speak about the risks and opportunities of tax planning under the new tax law including how to optimize charitable gifting with the changes to deductions, estate planning with the new Federal exemption and making sense of Opportunity Zone investments.

NOVEMBER 19TH - Dr. William Hagmann will discuss the life of Thomas A. Edison as a rock star of technology and invention in the turn-ofthe-century America, despite receiving only a short elementary education. His greatest invention may be the modern research and development and his trial and laboratory that still inspires us today.

**NOVEMBER 26TH -** Dr. Matt Wyvratt will talk about an air inversion which took place in a small western Pennsylvania town in the late 1940s. This air inversion created a killer smog resulting in the death of twenty town residents with many more developing serious health problems. This disaster is recognized as the beginning of the clean air movement in the United States.





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#### **UNION MUNICIPAL BAND CONCERT NOV 11TH**

Invitation for new members.

direction Howard Toplansky will present a concert on Monday evening, November 11, 2019. The concert will be held at Hannah Caldwell School Auditorium, 1120 Commerce Avenue, Union, NJ at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and the public is cordially invited to attend. This autumn concert will feature music from the Broadway stage, marches and overtures.

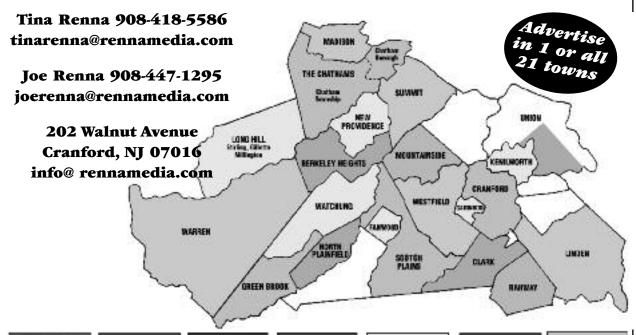
The concert will include the following selections: The Star Spangled Banner, Brighton

The Union Municipal Band, under the Beach March, Amazon Overture, Gypsy Fantasy, Variag March, Amazing Grace, Strenuous Life Rag, The Girl From Ipanema and Third Man Theme.

> The band would like to invite musicians from Union and the surrounding communities to join

> If you are interested please call the band director Howard Toplansky at 908-415-4939. Please call the Recreation Department at 908-686-4200 with any inquiries.

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#### TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 21ST ANNUAL PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December. The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 14 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) for a 2 p.m. performance. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 15 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ with performances at 2 and

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as, "Highland Cathedral," Joy to the World, and Amazing Grace, all performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, and organ and brass and more. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 21st Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their Scholarship at Summit (NJ) High School as well ancestry.

> premiere of "Mystical Nativity," an original located in Glasgow, Scotland) the Gaelic composition inspired by the 16th century masterpiece painted by Italian Renaissance Batesville, Arkansas. master, Sandro Botticelli.

The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. Featured performers include singer Maddy Kearns of Glasgow, Scotland making her concert debut, James Robinson from the film "Braveheart," New England fiddle champion Clemente, and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA among many more.

#### PROCEEDS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which includes the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts

as annual gifts to the National Piping Centre and The 2019 production will also mark the world the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both College of Nova Scotia and Lyon College in

> Proceeds also support the Society's sponsorship of the US National Scottish Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition at Scotland's Royal National Mod and an annual academic research prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Each year, concert highlights are webcast in Paul Woodiel, champion harpist Rachel hi-definition over the Christmas holiday to a global audience. In cooperation with HomeTowne Television, the 2018 production was the recipient of two prestigious Telly Awards for webcast excellence.

> The concert is still accepting Title Sponsors as well as Program Ads. These gifts help offset production expenses and add help fund our scholarships.

#### **TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW**

Tickets may be purchased online exclusively Brown Paper Tickets www.brownpapertickets.com (be certain you select the event name and date in the search engine) or by phone at (800) 838-3006. Reserved patron seats are available at both venues.



(above) Rachel Clemente. The acclaimed composer and performer will debut the new composition, "Mystical Nativity."



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CONTACT JOE FOR DETAILS 908-447-1295

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