Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

Published by Renna Media

Issue 53 • February 2020

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A CELEBRATION OF CONTINUED SERVICE AND DEDICATION

Contributing Author: Susan Baldani, a life member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad.

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad held their 83rd Annual Installation of Officers dinner on January 11th, 2020 at Snuffy's Pantagis Renaissance. Over 120 people were in attendance, which included not only squad members, but also members of the police and fire departments, the town council and mayor, local hospital personnel, and other EMS organizations who have helped and supported this vital volunteer organization throughout the years.

During the dinner, late squad members were honored and remembered, and current squad members were recognized for their service. Length of service awards went out to various long time members such as Joanne Gurske and Jean Lozowski for 30 years, Edward Fiedler for 40 years, Robert Speth for 45 years, and Daniel Sullivan for 50 years.

The officers for 2020 were also sworn in by Mayor Al Smith and included the following: • President: Daniel Sullivan

- 1st Vice President: Chang Yaramouthu Chaplain: Robert Gurske
- 2nd Vice President: Deborah Speth
- Secretary: Joanne Gurske
- Treasurer: Harold Hill
- Chief: Carolyn Sorge
- Deputy Chief: Robert Gurske
- Deputy Chief: Ronald Mahaffey
- Delegates: Daniel Sullivan, Patricia Buckridee, Rachael Siegel
- Alternate Delegates: Rachel Voeltzel, Matthew Marcus, Ryan Lemence
- Trustees: Robert Speth, Robert Foerster, Edward Fiedler

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is proud to have so many dedicated members who continue to be there for their fellow neighbors in times of need. While many other volunteer agencies have had to close their doors



(above) Scotch Plains Rescue Squad Chief Carolyn Sorge and President Daniel Sullivan

in recent years, the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad stands strong and determined to carry on its mission.



(above) Scotch Plains Rescue Squad Officers

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RESCUE SQUAD PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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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

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 23, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at its building located at 1916 Bartle Avenue. This event is hosted by the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad Auxiliary, which raises funds for the allvolunteer squad.

All-you-can-eat pancakes, coffee and sausages are offered for just a \$5.00 per person entry fee, (children 5 and under eat free.) There is also a raffle for baskets, which are filled with gifts and goodies donated by the community and area businesses. This is the 10th year this event is being held, and it's clear by the number of people who attend that it's something the community looks forward to every year.

So, come out with your family and friends and enjoy a hearty, delicious breakfast along with good conversation. It's a nice way to spend a Sunday morning. And for those with mobility issues, downstairs dining will be available.

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad relies on ongoing community support. These contributions enable the Squad to fulfill their motto, Neighbors Helping Neighbors - We Work For Pride Not Pay. The squad looks forward to continuing to faithfully serve those who call for help.





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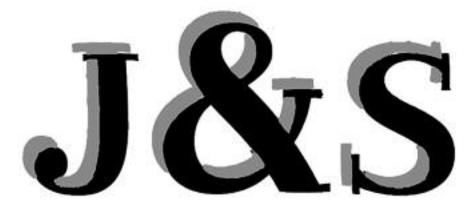








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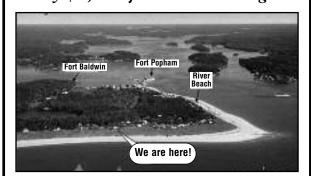




COLLEGE CLUB OF F-SP IS HOSTING THE FLORIAN SCHANTZ JAZZ COMBO ON FEBRUARY 24

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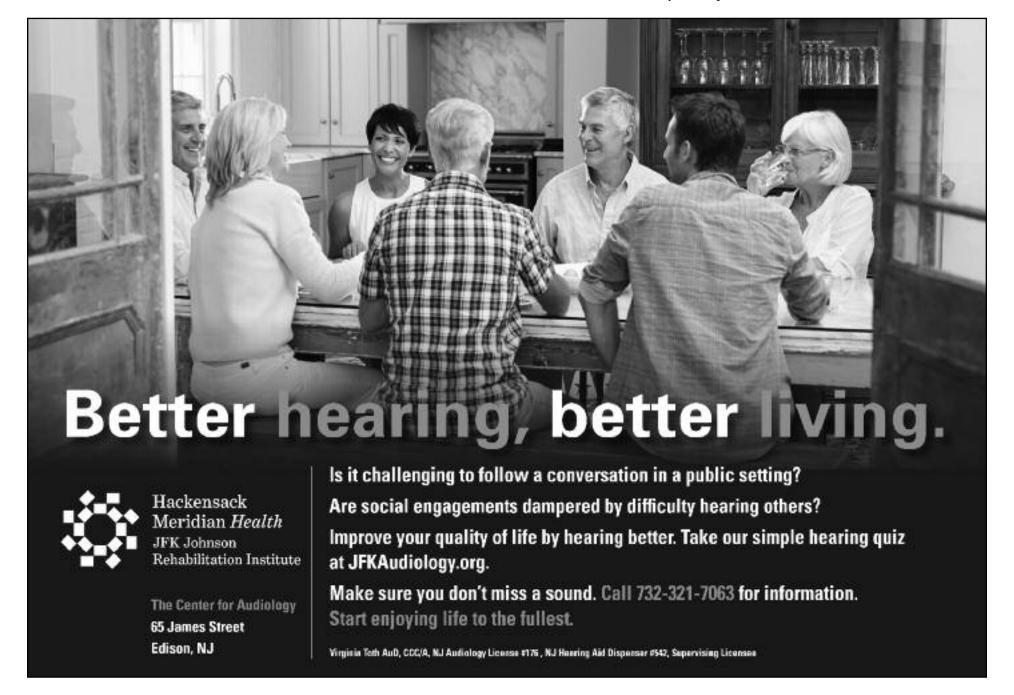
Come celebrate the roaring 20's with the its heyday. The program is suitable for all ages. Florian Schantz Jazz Combo on February 24, 2020, 7 p.m., at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 Martine Avenue, Fanwood (around the back at the McDermott Street entrance). The program is sponsored by the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains. This lively and entertaining program is free and open to the public. The Florian Schantz Jazz Combo who specializes in thematic historical musical programs with informational narrative will be featuring the music that put the "roar" in the roaring 20's. Come witness the revival of the one true American art form in its purest form during

The band has performed over 65 library programs across the tri-state area as well as numerous historical societies and hundreds of other venues. The combo is led by a 17 year old professional trumpet player, Florian Schantz, who started the band at age 9 and has performed over 470 engagements across NJ, NY, CT, PA and Germany. Also appearing in the band are Rup Chattopadhyay on trombone, Margaret Schantz on Flugelhorn and Lowell Schantz on guitar.

Additional information about the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains can be found on the club's website at fspcollegeclub.org.



(above) The Florian Jazz Combo will be hosted by the College Club of F-SP on February 24, 7 p.m.



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COLLEGE CLUB OF F-SP SPONSORING BLOOD DRIVE ON FEBRUARY 29

The College Club of Fanwood Scotch Plains is sponsoring a blood drive on Saturday, February 29 at the New Jersey Blood Services, Scotch Plains Donor Center, 2279 South Avenue, Scotch Plains (adjacent to Tom the Green Grocer). The entrance to the building and the parking area are located in the back of the building. Donation hours are 8:00 a.m. - 2:45

Age qualifications for donors: minimum age is 16; maximum age is up to and including 76th birthday. Donors past 76 must have approval from their physician.

All members of the community are encouraged to join College Club members and donate blood at a time that there is an urgent need for blood donations. According to a recent article in the Star Ledger, New Jersey is facing a critical blood shortage due to a higher than usual drop in donations during the holiday season.

College Club members participate in and support a Community Outreach activity during each month of the year. More information about the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains can be found on the club's website at fspcollegeclub.org.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION BEGINS ON FEB 3

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public School District will begin accepting preschool applications for the 2020-2021 school year on February 3, 2020. The Preschool Program uses the Creative Curriculum, which fosters children's learning through exploration and discovery. Preschool classes are comprised of general education students and students with special needs, as determined by a district evaluation.

Applicants must be residents of Scotch Plains or Fanwood. Proof of residency status and an original birth certificate will be required for new students enrolling in the program. The child's age as of October 1, 2020 will determine placement in a 3-year-old or 4-year-old class. Typically, 3year-olds attend the morning session from 8:35-11:20 a.m. and 4-year-olds attend the afternoon session from 12:20-3:10 p.m. All classes meet five days per week.

Tuition for the half-day program will be \$340 per month. A 10% sibling discount is available. In addition, free or reduced tuition may be available for families who qualify per federal guidelines or a district review.

Applications will be available at all district elementary schools and on the program website (spfk12.org/preschool) beginning February 3, 2020.

Please mail all completed applications to the Preschool Office located at 667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

For additional information, please contact the Preschool Office at 908-889-8600 x3302 or preschool@spfk12.org.

THRIFT SHOP READY FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day is Friday, February 14. The Fanwood - Scotch Plains Service League not for 2nd Street, Scotch Plains, has that special gift scholarships, and community organizations. for that special someone.

Look for green dot pieces in the Collector's Corner or jewelry collection. Many pieces have been researched and found on Amazon. Thrift Shop prices are below internet prices. As with all items in the shop, these pieces are new or gently used. Be sure to shop all sections of the

Fanwood - Scotch Plains Thrift Shop, 1741 East profit Thrift Shop. All purchases fund

Thrift Shop hours are

Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For information regarding the Fanwood -Scotch Plains Service League and the Thrift Shop, call 908-322-5420 during business hours and speak with a shop volunteer.



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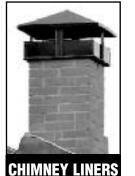
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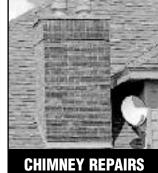
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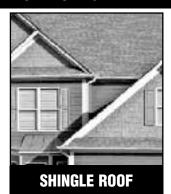




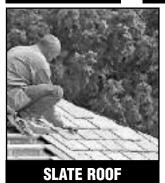
















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SPF SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation is currently accepting applications for high school seniors graduating in 2020 who reside in Scotch Plains or Fanwood, and those residents attending college or other post high school institutions for scholarships.

The numerous scholarships offered by the Foundation range in criteria; some awards are need-based, while others have criteria such as the intent to pursue an education focused on teaching, nursing, mathematics, veterinary science, foreign language, music or fine arts, among many others. The major criterion for eligibility is that the applicant resides in Scotch Plains or Fanwood; an applicant need not be a graduate of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Applications can be found through the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School counseling office and on spfscholarshipfoundation.org. In addition to the application, the Foundation requires a personal letter from the applicant, a letter of reference, and an official high school transcript, including SAT and/or ACT scores, or an official college transcript.

Submissions must be post-marked by February 15, 2020 and mailed to SPF Scholarship Foundation (Attn: Screening Committee) PO eligible for consideration. Applications postmarked after February 15 will be returned and

considered. Applications may be completed on foundation's website spfscholarshipfoundation.org - but must be printed and mailed as directed for consideration.

Since its inception in 1966, the Foundation has awarded over \$3,400,000 in scholarships to 3,207 deserving recipients. Scholarships are funded through a community-wide appeal in the spring and through Dollars for Students, our annual fund-raising event, taking place March 28 and 29,

incomplete or unsigned applications may not be 2020. Other scholarships are administered by the Foundation, but are funded by community organizations; for example, every Parent-Teacher Association in the district funds at least one scholarship.

> Applications are reviewed by a Screening Committee consisting of four Trustees from the Scholarship Foundation and PTA representatives from the public schools. For further information, please visit spfscholarshipfoundation.org.

APPLICATIONS DUE FOR DELEEUW SCHOLARSHIP

The time to apply is now! High school seniors wishing to apply for the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship should obtain applications now from their school guidance office. Submission deadline is Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

To date, the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship Fund, a fund of the Plainfield Foundation, has provided over 1.4 million dollars in scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 over a twenty-four year period. The awards are made in accordance with the terms of a bequest from Ms. DeLeeuw, author of 75 books, journalist and arts activist.

The Plainfield Rotary Scholarship Foundation, Box 123, Fanwood NJ, 07023 in order to be headed by Michael R. Townley, acts as selector for the scholarships. Eligible students are those who attend high schools in Plainfield, North

Plainfield, South Plainfield, Warren, Watchung, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Edison. Applicants must major in one of the following areas of study: art, poetry, writing, journalism or engineering, and must also be accepted to an accredited college or university. They must demonstrate the scholastic aptitude and interest in the area of study and prove financial need.

Interested students should consult their guidance counselors to obtain the necessary application information or go to the Plainfield/North Plainfield Rotary Club website rotarypnp.org/cs-adele-deleeuw-scholarship.php. Questions may be directed to Johanna Salvemini, Scholarship Administrator, at 908-755-8098.



DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTES GRANTS TOTALING \$37,500

Submitted by Thomas Trezza

The Drive for Autism Foundation is pleased to announce the distribution \$37,500 in the form of eight grants to school-based programs providing education and training to individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Each program received funds based on a "wish list."

annual golf outing each September, as well as several other smaller fund-raising events throughout the year. The Drive for Autism Golf Outing, which has been held since 2002, has raised and distributed over \$750,000 to local school programs. This year's grants were awarded to: Morris Union Jointure Commission (New Providence, NJ), Salt Brook School (New

Providence, NJ), AW Roberts School (New Providence), Union County Educational Services Foundation/Crossroads School (Westfield, NJ), Educational Partnership for Instructing Children, (Paramus, NJ), Eden II/Genesis Programs (Staten Island, NY), Spectrum360 formerly The Children's Institute (Verona, NJ) and Seton The Drive for Autism foundation holds an Foundation for Learning (Staten Island, N.Y).

> Grant recipients use the money to fund health and fitness programs, social skills programs, assessment tools, educational curriculum and teacher training, a van for community trips and transportation to job training centers, laptop computers, computer touch screens, SMART boards, iPads, video projectors and educational toys and games.

ABOUT DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION

Based in New Providence, New Jersey & Staten Island, New York, The Drive for Autism Foundation, is a 501(3)(c) tax exempt public charity that was created in 2002 for the sole purpose of raising and distributing funds for educational facilities specializing in individuals with autism.

DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF OUTING 2020

The Drive for Autism XIV is scheduled for Monday September 21, 2020 at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, New Jersey. The event consists of a morning round of golf followed by lunch. Special events include golf contests, raffles and a silent auction of sports memorabilia, game tickets and golf trips.

For additional information please visit their website at DriveForAutism.org or email driveforautism@comcast.net.

WINTER EVENTS AT THE RAPTOR TRUST

The Raptor Trust is a 501c3 organization that provides free medical care to thousands of injured and orphaned wild birds each year. Located at 1390 White Bridge Road, Millington, NJ, The Raptor Trust is offering the following events this winter. To register please visit TheRaptorTrust.org.

Trivia – Animal love languages Saturday, February 15th, 2 p.m.

This quiz-style competition will include two rounds of questions and the opportunity to meet one of our education birds. Ages 14 and up. \$10 per person.

Great Horned Owls in Love!

Saturday, February 8th, 2 p.m.

Discover how this important and thriving NJ species gets an early start at growing families and preparing for spring during snowy winters. \$10 per person.

Frosty Feathers

Sunday, February 23rd, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Families with children ages 3-8 are invited to huddle into our heated classroom for a warm cup of cider and a fun filled program on the fashionable fluff birds use to keep out the cold.

Education Open Houses

Sun & Mon, February 16th & 17th,

Pop on in to visit the education staff inside our warm and cozy classroom full of avian exhibits. You may even meet a special feathered guest. No advanced registration required.

Focus on Raptors

Saturday, March 28th, 2 p.m.

An opportunity for committed shutterbugs to take close-range photographs of our educational raptors perched in an outdoor setting. \$150 per person.



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Submitted by Christopher Sands

Atlas-Pythagoras Lodge #10 Free and Accepted Masons, which meets at 1011 Central Ave, Westfield, recently held our annual Charity Night. We donated to eight worthy groups in our community.

The Masonic Services Association, which supports Veterans in the three NJ State Veterans home and both VA Veterans homes.

Tree of Hope, which the Sheriff of Union County runs, which collects toys for needy children in Union County.

Keystone Community Living, which helps people with developmental disabilities to lead fulfilling lives. It runs a group home in South Plainfield.

Bonds of Courage, which supports Veterans and the 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry from the Westfield Armory.

Union County Meals on Wheels, which provides meals to the housebound or those who cannot cook themselves.

Every 15 Minutes, from Kenilworth High School, which teaches Juniors and Seniors about the consequences of drinking and driving.

The Children's Dyslexia Center, Scotch Plains, which uses the Orton-Gillingham curriculum to help children with dyslexia read and flourish.

The George Washington Masonic Memorial, A museum which is used to tell the world about George Washington, a Mason, General of the Armies and our First President!

ABOUT FREEMASONRY

Freemasonry constitutes the world's oldest and largest fraternity. The masonic experience focuses on enlightened fellowship. It encourages members to become better citizens. The fraternal bonds formed in the lodge help foster life-long friendships among men with similar values. Virtually all occupations and professions are represented. Brothers come from diverse political ideologies, but we meet as friends. Freemasons come from varied religious beliefs and creeds and believe in a supreme being.

Atlas-Pythagoras Lodge #10 meets the first and third Fridays every month except during the summer.

If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information about Freemasony, visit atlaspythagoras.com, or call (908) 233-7349.







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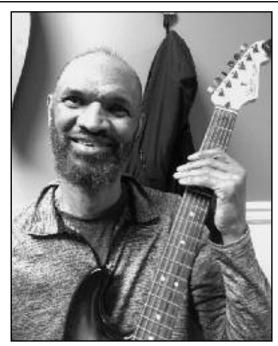
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III Center Stage Music Lessons

RAKE AND HOE GARDEN CLUB DELIVERS GIFT BAGS TO VETERANS

Every year members of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club prepare Holiday Gift Bags for the Veterans at Lyons Hospital in Basking Ridge, NJ. Once again, Betty Gulino coordinated the collection and delivery of 140 Holiday Gift Bags donated by club members. These gift bags are

designed to bring holiday cheer to the veterans who have served our country and are now deserving of our thanks and well wishes.

To learn more about the services Lyons Veterans Medical Center provides and volunteer opportunities to support our military heroes, please call 908-647-0189 or visit newjersey.va.gov/locations/lyons campus.asp.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Club, Inc. The club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 p.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns. For more information, call Bet Siano, 908-233-4150, or visit the club's website, rakeandhoe.org, or Facebook page.



(above, front, l-r) Betty Gulino, Jeanie Pelikan and Joyce Mullen; (back, l-r) Marty Gulino and Richard Pelikan. Not shown: Mary Foley Smith.

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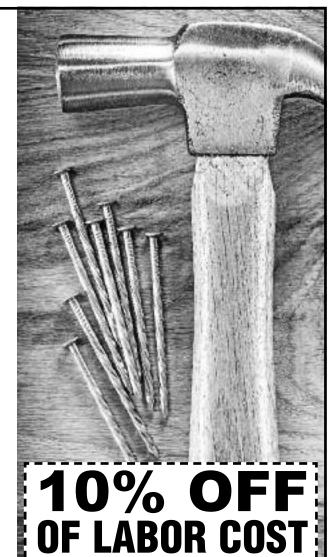
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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

The 2019-2020 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Varsity Girls' Soccer Team concluded their school history making season ranked third in the final NJ.com Poll and 38th in the National Polls, finishing with a record of 18-3-2, with impressive wins over state ranked opponents throughout the season. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education recognized the team during their December 19, 2019 board meeting.

The SPFHS Varsity Girls' Soccer Team, seeded second in North II Group IV, defeated Perth Amboy 9-0, Watchung Hills Regional 1-0, and in the Sectional Final a 2-0 win over perennial Sectional Finalist Bridgewater-Raritan. The most dramatic game of the Sectional Tournament was the 4-0 redemption victory in the Semi-Final against Westfield. The Raiders Girls' Soccer team fought off a talented Montclair team 2-1. The season concluded at Kean University in the Group Final against Hunterdon Central.

The 2019-2020 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Varsity Girls' Soccer Team consisted of the following members: Gabrielle Aloe, Micky Genty, Sophia Lama, Rachel Schoss, Elizabeth Bedatsky, Abby Hanvey, Elizabeth Ley, Maya Sutterlin, Lily Camacho, Ava Hausle, Corinne Lyght, Giorgiana Vacca, Devon Danielovich, Maya Kessler, Giulianna Milano, Jamie Valian, Ashley DeFrancesco, Rebecca Kessler, Holly Nelson, Kaylah Webb, Sarah Dill, Leah Klurman, Grace Ponterio, Katarina Zikas, Alexa Fazio, Brooke Klurman, and Julianna Scarcella.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Varsity Girls' Soccer Team was led by Head Coach Kevin Ewing, and Assistant Coaches Matthew Tiedemann, Lauren Mains and Joseph Higgins.



(above) The 2019-2020 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Varsity Girls' Soccer Team were celebrated for their excellent season.

Photo by SFPS Public Schools

SPFHS GIRLS VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY TEAM CELEBRATED AT BOARD MEETING

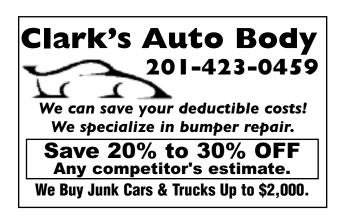
The 2019-2020 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Girls Varsity Field Hockey Team completed the 2019 Season with a record of 13-7, representing the best record since the program was brought back to the high school in 2015. The SFFHS Girls Varsity Field Hockey Team had a seven-game winning streak and advanced to the quarter-finals of both the Union County and North II Group IV State Sectional Tournaments. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education honored the team's accomplishments during their December 19, 2019 board meeting.

The SPFHS Girls Varsity Field Hockey Team, led by Head Coach Alexandra Neidig, and Assistant Coaches Virginia Weber and Sarah

Weber, was honored to have two players named to Second Team All-Union County, five players named to First Team All Division, three named to Second Team All Division, and one All Division Honorable Mention.

The 2019-2020 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Girls Varsity Field Hockey consisted of the following members: Meagan Bourke, Alicia Murphy, Liv Calcaterra, Cassidy Novello, Haley Cino, Sophia Novello, Abby Conklin, Emilia Saccento, Brenna DeProspero, Erica Schug, Bridget Ennis, Allie Serio, Jamie Frank, Olivia Stahley, Cecelia Kelly, Maya Viscardi-Carelse, Erin Lay, Julia Zambrio, and Jenna Lee.

Photo by SFPS Public Schools







(above) The 2019-2020 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Girls Varsity Field Hockey Team, who achieved the record of 13-7.

SPFHS BOYS JV SOCCER TEAM RECOGNIZED Scotch Plains Monthly • Page 13 • February 2020 BY SPF BOARD OF EDUCATION

School JV Boys' Soccer Team, led by Coach Matthew Giannacio, completed the 2019 Season with a record of 11-6-4 earning the first seed in the Union County Interscholastic Athletics Conference Tournament. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education honored the team's accomplishments during their December 19, 2019 board meeting.

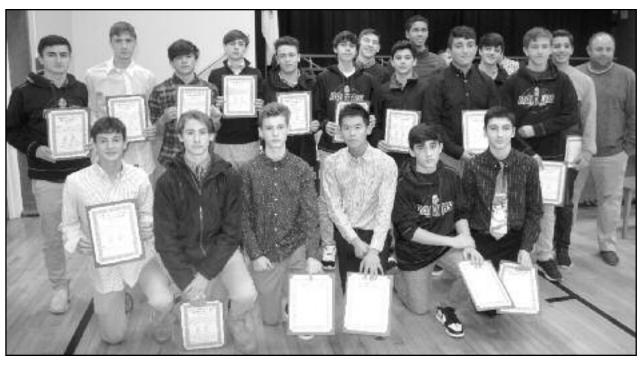
The SPFHS JV Boys' Soccer Team tied the championship game 1-1 with seconds remaining following a penalty and after two golden goal ten-minute overtime periods, the contest ended

The 2019-2020 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High as a 1-1 draw earning the SPFHS JV Boys' Soccer Team a Co-County Championship.

> The 2019-2020 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School JV Boys' Soccer Team consisted of the following members: Kieren Adams, Luke Jones, Chase Robert Alber, Sean Kennedy, Gabe Bachman, Jordan Lopac, James Barth, Rory Moser, TJ Baylock, Calum Murray, Ryan Chaillet Grande, Roman Perrelli, Matt Cieslinski, Noah Sadler, Benjamin Cohen, Rohan Shah, Dylan Fei, Benedetto Skirde, Liam Ferguson, Christian Tardi, Joey Gale, Isaac Tu, Michael Hayeck, and Luka Culjak, Team Manager.



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(above) SPFHS JV Boys' Soccer Team, who became Co-County Champions this past season.

Photo by SFPS Public Schools



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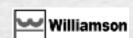
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NAMI UNION COUNTY EVENTS

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Union County is offering two events this February:

Family Support Group

Tuesday, February 18, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

For family members and caregivers of a person with mental illness. Join our monthly peer-led group meetings and gain insight from others facing similar challenges. First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave., Cranford, NJ.

For more information call 908-233-1628 or email namiunioncounty@yahoo.com.

Circle of Friends

Tuesday, February 25, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Join the Conversation on Mental Illness - The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Union County invites all area residents to the Circle of Friends gathering led by Joyce Benz, LCSW, Director of the Intensive Family Support Services of the Mental Health Assoc. in NJ. Bring your questions and hear from other caregivers on insights learned from their own experiences. At RWJ Rahway Fitness and Wellness Center, 2120 Lamberts Mill Rd., Scotch Plains.

For more info, call 908-233-1628, email namiunioncounty@yahoo.com or visit online at facebook.com/NAMI.unioncounty.

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Open to all registered Boy Scouts/Venturers/Explorers Non-scouts welcomed!

Saturday, February 22, 2020

10:30 am to 3:00 pm Sign-in/setup starts at 10:00 am **Registration Closes 2-21-20**

Cranford Community Center

220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ • 908.709.7283

Registration is \$15 • Note: this is a non-rated tournament. Limited to 40 players who must know how to play chess, age 11 and older. For More Information: Email Jim Parlapiano at jim.parlapiano@hotmail.com Or Will Adams at will.adams@scouting.org or 973-765-9322 x234 Scouts can use Patriots' Path Council Munsee District Double Knot link to register on-line at ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2583007 Scouts can email Will Adams at Will.adams@scouting.org for more info.

> Trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers. Lunch will be provided for all players.

This tournament meets the 6a requirement for earning a Chess merit badge.





CARING CONTACT CRISIS LINE NEXT TRAINING TO BEGIN MARCH 17

Submitted by Mary Claire Givelber

Six residents from Westfield and Scotch Plains completed training in December 2019 to become volunteers on the Caring Contact crisis hotline. During the 52 hours of training the graduates developed the ability to listen actively, assess the needs of someone in crisis and provide empathy and support. The training included dynamic and interactive presentations by guest experts in active listening, grief recovery, mental health issues and suicide intervention. Volunteer Listener Training is taught by trainers who are long-time listeners and nationally certified instructors in Mental

Health First Aid and Applied Suicide channel my love for psychology and my passion Intervention Skills Training.

"I trained to become a caring contact listener in an effort to connect with those that need to feel human connection in order to cope with whatever struggles they are going through whether it be mental health, family crisis, chronic physical pain or economic hardship," stated Bisrat Mekbeb of Scotch Plains. "I am fortunate to be in a position to give back to my community through Caring Contact in this way."

When asked why he was drawn to this work, Ryan Hinderliter of Westfield said, "I wanted to for making a difference in the community into something meaningful."

Caring Contact is an award-winning, volunteer-staffed crisis hotline and listening community that supports the Nation Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Located in Westfield, NJ, they provide active listening support and bestin-class education to central and northern New Jersey.

The next volunteer training will begin on March 17, 2020. For more information about this training call 908-301-1899 or visit caringcontact.org.



(above, l-r) Back row: Ryan Hinderliter, Amit Trivedi, Michael Coleman, Shailesh Lal, Carolyn Paznek, Derek Cooke, Marc Julius, David Burman, Charles Christophel. Middle row: Laurie Feinberg, Sarah Lindell, Sasha Singh, Ananya Jain, Kaelin Stoll, Kacie Neilson, Jaimie Radakovich, Larry Kornreich, Arlene Klemow. Front row: Bisrat Mekbeb, Jasmine Dursun, Michelle Mendoza, Pam Webb, Kate Gorelick, Payl Patel.



KIDS FISHING SEMINAR SET FOR MARCH 3

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club was founded in 1907 and remains one of the oldest fishing clubs in the nation. We are listed on Amazon Smile and are a recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit. We provide outings to support veterans, adults and children as well as people with disabilities which focus on environmental education, fishing knowledge and practice. A complete list of our upcoming events can be found at www.nbfcc.org.

We are always looking for new members, donations, and volunteers if anyone would like to get involved.

Our monthly meetings are held at the Kenilworth VFW, located at 33 S. 21st St., Kenilworth, NJ, on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (except July and August).

Our Annual Kids Seminar will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., at the Kenilworth Veterans Center, V.F.W.33 South 21st street Kenilworth, NJ.

A Guest speaker to be announced and topics of discussion will be safety while fishing, fish identification, and practice casting. Prizes will be awarded and snacks will be served.

For more information visit www.nbfcc.org, or contact Bob Jones, BJonesJRNJ@hotmail.com, 908-272-3545



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TRICKY TRAY FUNDRAISER & DESSERT CABARET

multi-generational community choir, has celebrationsingersnewjersey@gmail.com. entertained audiences within Union County and across the globe. On February 7 and 8, 2020, they will hold their Annual Tricky Tray Fundraiser & Dessert Cabaret at Union Elks Lodge 1583, 281 Chestnut Street in Union, NJ. Doors open at 7:15 p.m. and guests can immediately start placing their tricky tray tickets in for the prizes. The show, "Are We There Yet?," begins around 8 p.m. and features songs about places performed by members of its adult choir.

Artistic Director Joe Elefante, along with Collaborative Pianist, James Lubrano artfully cast the showcase which features a musical review of solos, duets, trios, as well as small and full ensemble pieces. Co-Hosts Kathy Gordon and Daniel Frieri emcee the evening. Their witty humor and playful banter are sure to bring a smile to your face and fill the room with laughter and enjoyment.

"I love singing with the choir throughout the year, especially for our Cabaret – it's a chance to feature our singers' vocal talents individually," said President Nicole Pepe. "The tricky tray and 50/50 gets bigger and bigger every year. We've had guests leave with \$1,000+ in their pockets and vacations to Florida, the Hamptons, and even tickets to a Knicks game!"

In addition to door prizes, a 50/50 raffle and exciting tricky tray baskets, homemade desserts and a cash bar will also be available. Tickets are: Adults - \$25, Seniors - \$20, and 10% discount with advanced purchases of full tables of 10.

For ticket reservations, please visit: celebration-singers.org. For questions or seating

For 81 years, The Celebration Singers, a local requests, please call 908-552-4656 or email



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP AT BLOOD DRIVES

New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS), which supplies blood to hospitals throughout the state, is in need of volunteers to help at blood drives. The blood drive volunteer is an integral member of the blood collection team whose task it is to assist donors with registration and/or at the refreshment area. No medical background is necessary. Volunteers should have the ability to relate to the public, be able to perform different application/

jobs as needed and have the willingness to follow the rules. For additional information contact, Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Manager of Volunteer Services Sharon Zetts at 732-850-8906.

To apply on line as a blood drive volunteer, please go to:

nybc.org/support-us/volunteer-nybc/volunteer-

SINGLES DISCUSSION GROUP

The Sunday Morning Singles Discussion Group will meet for a lively discussion on a myriad of topics February 2, 9, 16 and 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at The First Baptist Church (lower level), 170 Elm Street, Westfield.

This nondenominational group of people 55 plus, enjoy a Continental breakfast followed by engaging conversation every Sunday. \$2 donation.

Call 908-686-0563 for more information.



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THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE IS COMING TO CDC THEATRE IN CRANFORD

Running from February 14th through the 22nd and winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee has charmed audiences across the country with its effortless wit and humor. Featuring a fast-paced, wildly funny and touching book by Rachel Sheinkin and a truly fresh and vibrant score by William Finn (Falsettos, A New Brain), this bee is one unforgettable experience.

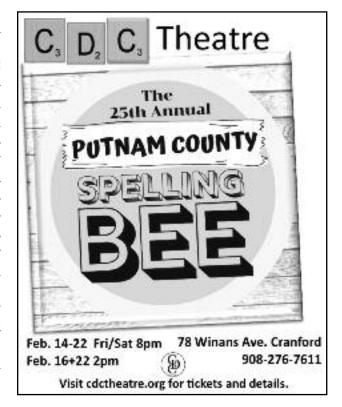
An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Part of the fun of the show is that no two performances are ever the same. Audience volunteers are selected at each

show to participate onstage in scenes, songs and choreography.

The cast features some familiar faces at CDC Theatre and some new ones: Sean Lynch-Littlejohn as Chip Tolentino, E. Rachel Valovcin as Logainne Schwartzandgrubenier, Zach Mazouat as Leaf Coneybear, Zach Love as William Barfee, Mallory Ann Wu as Marcy Parks, Patrina Caruana as Olive Ostrovsky, Alexa Teebo as Rona Lisa Peretti, Ian Federgreen as Vice Principle Panch and Brendan Lynch-Littlejohn as Mitch Mahoney. The show is directed by Nevil Schwartz with choreography by Michelle Massa and musical direction by John Brzozowski.

Six spellers enter: one speller leaves! They learn that winning or losing isn't everything and at least the losers get a juice box.

Links to tickets and additional information can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org.



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CAR DONATION PROGRAM GIVES WHEELS TO REAL PEOPLE

What does it mean to have your own car? For longtime Community Access Unlimited (CAU) member Brian Shapiro, it means both stability and freedom. Before he had a car, Brian had to get a ride from a friend or take an Uber to his job driving a cab in Bloomfield.

"It's a lot easier," Brian said, thanks to the Volvo he received as a donation through Community Access Unlimited this fall. "I go to work and take my son places."

CAU started the vehicle donation program as a way to aid youth and individuals with disabilities who wished to complete their drivers test and gain the independence that comes with owning a vehicle. Now Brian can easily travel to the job he has had for nearly 20 years. Many have already benefited from the donation of reliable cars to get them where they need to go- from work and school to social functions.

"I've known about it for a while and it finally worked out," Brian said.

Unlike other car donation programs, CAU does not sell or scrap donated cars, receiving only a percentage of their value. By donating a vehicle to CAU, 100% of your donation will go to a person with transportation needs.

Those interested in donating a car should contact Mercedes Pagan, fundraising and event director, at 908-354-3040 x4376 mpagan@caunj.org.



(above) Brian Shapiro shows off his Volvo Cross Country.

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Vehicles that may qualify for donation include community. CAU gives a voice to adults and those that are new, gently used, or vehicles needing minor body or mechanical work. The owner of the car must have the title at the time of donation. Car donors will receive a donation letter which can serve as a charitable donation, which is tax deductible.

Learn more about donating to or volunteering with CAU at caunj.org/support-us.

ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating its 40th year in 2019, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the

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youth who traditionally have little power in society, assisting its members with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. Currently serving more than 5,000 individuals and families, CAU continues to grow each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, info@caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL BENEFITS THE BURN CENTER AND THE NJ FMBA

from around New Jersey will compete at the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival benefiting the New Jersey State Firefighter's Mutual Benevolent Association and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center. This event, which draws people from throughout New Jersey, will be held at The Pines Manor, 2085 Route 27, Edison, NJ from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Last year more than \$50,000 was raised from the event which was attended by more than 1000 people.

The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off will be an integral part of the evening as firefighters from 25 departments will compete in three

On Monday, February 24, 2020, firefighters different categories: Gourmet, Firehouse and

The competition is part of the culinary extravaganza where participants will be able to experience the tastes and flavors of more than 40 of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers and dessert shops all in one location.

If you are looking for an entertaining evening of great food and wine, don't miss this event. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$65 at the door. Visit cookedanduncorked.com to order tickets, view participating restaurants and wine/spirits and for more information.

Tickets can be also be ordered by calling the NJ FMBA at 908-499-9250.



Check out the event video here at https://youtu.be/ShqlrquVBRE

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joerenna@rennamedia.com Visit RennaMedia.com or NJLocalInfo.com

ROTARY CASINO NIGHT 2019 SET FOR FEB. 29

Save the date for The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club Fourth Annual Casino Night on Saturday, February 29, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at Shackamaxon Country Club, Scotch Plains.

This has become the community social event of the year! There are various ways to support this event through sponsorships, donations and ticket sales. Tickets can be purchased at fsprotarycasino.brownpapertickets.com.

Information about sponsorships and donations can be found at fsprotary.org/events.

There will continue to be outstanding prizes such as televisions, bikes, a vacation home getaway, and much more! All proceeds from this event will support our scholarships for our graduating seniors, restoration of the historic Frazee House, those in need in local communities, our local police departments, our ongoing local Rotary projects, as well as projects in undeveloped countries throughout the world.

Last year's event was sold out! The Rotary Club is grateful for the support they received from the attendees as well as their generous sponsors.

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

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Join us Wednesdays at 12:15PM

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Website: fsprotary.org FB: Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Twitter: fsprotary **Contact: Carmela at 908-499-4782**

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