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DAY OF SERVICE RAISES HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS

On Saturday, March 7, 285 Chatham Girl Scout's filled the Long Hill Chapel gym for their annual "Day of Service." This year's event focused on raising awareness and promoting advocacy for those who are experiencing homelessness.

The gym was buzzing with energy as the girls brought in their donations and posters showing the incredible work that they have accomplished toward their common goal. Girl Scouts from every level, Kindergarten through 12th grade, showed up and participated in the event. It was really motivating to see the older Girl Scouts side by side with the younger girls.

This year's event was chaired by Ambassador Girl Scout Ceal Purschke. "The goal of the day was two- fold: 1 - Educate the girls about organizations in our own community that provide services for the homeless and, 2 - Demonstrate how the girl scouts can work together to support these organizations. The results were beyond my wildest expectations - 72% of all Chatham Girl Scout Troops participated with service projects, creative collections and drives as well as collaborations with local businesses. The girls came together on March 7 to share what they had done! It was amazing," said Purschke.

As a group, the girls collected and assembled donations for several Morris area organizations



including: 275 breakfast bags to Nourish NJ, 123 sustainable lunch bags plus 10 fleece blankets for Bridges Outreach, 199 Toiletry kits for Bridges Outreach, 137 warm weather kits for Homeless Solutions, 20 large reusable grocery bags plus 5 large boxes filled with diapers and toiletries for Family Promise, 100 toiletry kits for Covenant House, and 12 large bins filled with blankets and cleaning supplies for Homeless Solutions.

In addition, each donation contained a personal handwritten note of kindness or a handmade inspirational bracelet.

Another highlight of the event were the amazing guest speakers.

Maryrose Mullen, the Community Engagement Coordinator from Nourish NJ, talked to the group about how Nourish NJ helps people beyond the Morristown area. The girls learned that they provide free farmers markets to families through generous grants and donations from local grocery stores and farms.

Anaija, a teenager from Family Promise, spoke to the girls about what it was like to be part of the Family Promise program as a young girl of 8 years old. She was incredibly inspiring and told the girls to be sure to be nice to everyone, because you never know what the boy or girl sitting next to you is going through.

Blair Schleicher Bravo, the CEO of Morris Habitat for Humanity, engaged the girls in a lively question and answer session. The girls were completely engaged and asked great questions about the size of the homes, how they can help to be part of the build and how Habitat selects families.

The Chatham Girl Scouts are a wonderful group of strong women who are teaching girls to give back to their community. According to Betty Garger, CEO of GSNNJ, "Community service is a cornerstone of Girl Scouts, the organization I serve, and we encourage our youth to be the change they want to see in the world."

(continued on page 6)



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RETIRED SCOUTS HELP MAINTAIN BOY SCOUT CAMPS

The Flintlocks repaired the Dan Beard Tree House at Boy Scout Camp Somers in Stanhope, NJ over the winter. This camp serves the Union County area scouts, as well as Morris, Sussex and Middlesex Counties.

The Flintlocks are retired scouters who volunteer every Thursday at Camp Winnebago in Rockaway, NJ. All it took was some lumber, some screws and some elbow grease. Since the Flintlocks are all volunteers with outstanding

construction skills, it saves the Council from hiring outside contractors to do the repairs. A small group goes up to Camp Somers on Wednesdays to work over there. Most of the men had fathers who helped the Boy Scouts when they were in the scouts as lads, and have sons and grandchildren who were, or are, in the scouts.

For more information please visit the Facebook Page "Flintlocks", or contact Flintlocks Secretary Michael Hart at drmhart@yahoo.com.



(above) The Dan Beard Tree House at Boy Scout Camp Somers received repairs by the Flintlocks over the winter.

DANIEL TAM COMPETES IN SCOUT CHESS TOURN

Chatham boy scout Daniel Tam recently competed in the 7th annual Munsee District Boy Scout Chess Tournament. This year's tournament was held at the Cranford Community Center on Saturday, February 22, 2020.

The First place winner of the tournament was Joshua McDonald from Whitehouse Station. Second place was awarded to Alexander Beke from Berkeley Heights, and third place went to Anderson Lee from Summit. Trophies in the form of traveling chess sets were awarded to first, second, and third place finishers.

Thirty-one contestants participated in the annual tournament that was organized by Joe Renna of Renna Media, and Tournament Director John Moldovan of Garwood. This

tournament also met part of the requirements for earning a Chess merit badge.



(above) Daniel Tam

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

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Submitted by Justin Montanaro

The Kiwanis Club of the Chathams/Madison recently held their award ceremony where they recognize outstanding Key Club Members from Chatham and Madison High School.

Chatham High School's recipient was Sam Kaplan. Sam is the Grade Level Representative for the club, where he attended and was involved in board meetings, as well as served as a liaison between general members and club officers. He provided reminders to members to stay on task with their service hours, as well as voice any concerns or needs from the group at large. He communicated efficiently through email, fielding questions and problem solving – always in an extremely well written and responsive manner. Thank you Sam for your continued dedication to the Key Club!

Madison High School's recipient was Nicole Maldonado. Nicole has been an active Key Club member throughout her years at Madison High School. She handles Club Monthly Report Forms, relaying them to the club's Lieutenant Governor in a timely and thorough manner. Nicole is extremely assertive, always offering her help. She has taken it upon herself to tally up member points, act as a representative for the club at Leader's Meetings, and fill in as "Blood Buddy" at the Blood Drive. She also staffed the booth for the Valentine's day rose sale and wrangled donations for the food drive. As a senior she juggles a full course load amongst other extracurricular activities, while keeping the Key Club a priority. Congratulations for a job well done!



(above) Chatham High School's Outstanding Key Club Member recipient was Sam Kaplan.



(above) Nicole Maldonado, of Madison High School, received the Outstanding Key Club Member recognition.


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HICKORY TREE CHORUS ANNOUNCES ANNUAL \$1,000 MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Are you a high school senior woman who has applied for a college music program? Hickory Tree Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, is pleased to offer the \$1,000 Diane Cecala Memorial Scholarship to a musically talented high school senior woman interested in pursuing a career in vocal music. Rehearsing in Stirling, New

Jersey, we are dedicated to teaching, singing, and performing four-part, acappella harmony. Hickory Tree Chorus has awarded an annual scholarship for over 20 years to students from areas in which its members reside.

Qualified high school senior girls with good academic records and exceptional

talent in vocal music are encouraged to apply. Students should also have applied for acceptance into a music program at a college or university. Completed applications and recordings of at least two vocal performances must be received by April 30, 2020.

Details and applications are available on the chorus web site at hickorytreechorus.org.



(above) The Hickory Tree Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines, is now accepting applications for their annual \$1,000 music scholarship.

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PLASTIC BAGS ORDINANCE

Submitted by Jessica Romeo
(Township, Environmental Commission)
and Len Resto

On March 1, ordinances banning single use plastic bags at retail establishments in Chatham Borough and Chatham Township took effect. Paper bags will be available upon request and businesses in the Borough will charge 10 cents per bag. The plastic bags generally used in the produce section of a supermarket and to wrap fish or other wet items are not prohibited by these ordinances.

The goal is for shoppers to bring sturdy reusable bags to bring home purchases. Several area collection points have been set up to collect and distribute sturdy reusable bags. "Leave a bag, take a bag" collection bins are located in the Chatham Borough and Chatham Township Municipal Buildings, the Senior Center of the Chathams, and Purple Aardvark. Please donate any extras you have in your closets, take a bag or two if you need any. You can bring any type of bag to a retail establishment to bring home your purchases!

Let's reduce plastic contamination of our land, water and food.



(above, l-r) Jessica Romeo and Cara Pacifico at the "leave a bag, take a bag" Chatham Township Municipal Building collection point.

GIRL SCOUT DAY OF SERVICE (continued from page 1)

ABOUT OUR PARTNERS:

Nourish NJ creates lasting solutions to the problems of hunger, homelessness and poverty. They offer food, housing, work readiness, medical, social and educational services 365 days a year in a warm, safe and caring environment, free of charge, no questions asked.

Bridges Outreach ends homelessness through volunteer-driven outreach and individual case management focusing on health, housing and independence. They form relationships with those experiencing homelessness while meeting their most urgent needs.

Covenant House New Jersey provides comprehensive residential care and related services to help New Jersey's youth who have suffered from abuse, neglect, abandonment, homelessness, and human trafficking build a life for themselves that is good. They journey with young people from the streets, to Residential Crisis Centers, to transitional living homes, and on to independent living in the community to help them break the cycle of homelessness and poverty.

Family Promise helps homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable

independence.

They recognize that poverty is a complex problem that requires a multifaceted response. They respond by integrating educational outreach, smart programming, effective policies, and the hands-on work of thousands of volunteers. They provide food, shelter, and support services for homeless families. They provide advice and advocacy for at-risk families to prevent their becoming homeless. And they educate people about poverty and the means to combat it.

Morris Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization and an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International which is headquartered in Americus, Georgia. Habitat for Humanity provides technical assistance, but each affiliate operates independently raising its own funds, finding its own sites and selecting its own families. Each affiliate tithes to Habitat for Humanity to assist in building efforts worldwide.

Homeless Solutions Providing a Hand UP, Not a HandOUT offers shelter, services, and supportive housing to the homeless and working poor in Morris County, New Jersey.

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STATE DEP TO SHIP SEEDLINGS OF FAMED SALEM OAK TREE TO ALL 39 MORRIS COUNTY TOWNS IN TIME FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

In celebration of its 50th birthday and the 50th anniversary of America's first Earth Day on April 22, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is sending the gift of a prized seedling from the famed Salem Oak tree to each of New Jersey's 565 municipalities, including all of Morris County's 39 towns, for planting in the spring.

With Mother Nature's cooperation, the state plans to ship the seedlings during the last full week of April, which also coincides with Arbor Day, April 24, when all state residents are encouraged to plant trees — and when weather conditions are generally best for success. With nurturing and a bit of luck, the seedlings will grow into memorable trees from Riverdale to Washington Township over the coming decades.

For more than 500 years, the iconic Salem Oak stood on West Broadway in the historic city of Salem until June 6, 2019, when it suddenly crashed to the ground. The loss of the beloved oak was deeply felt by Salem residents and countless others throughout New Jersey and beyond.

Before its demise, the Salem Oak was one of New Jersey's best-known and most celebrated trees and was ranked among the state's largest



(above) The famed Salem Oak tree prior to its demise.

white oaks.

Located in the Salem Friends Burial Ground, the majestic oak was more than 100 feet tall with a trunk circumference of approximately 22 feet. Its crown spanned 104 feet. Its age also exceeded the lifespan of most white oaks, which typically live 200 to 300 years.

The oak was also known for its illustrious history. It was the sole surviving tree from the original forest that covered the land when Quaker John Fenwick, founder of Salem, first arrived in 1675. According to legend, Fenwick met with Lenni Lenape Native Americans and, under the oak's branches, signed a peace treaty. The event is commemorated by a historical marker at the

site.

Only months before the tree fell, foresters in the DEP Forest Service's Big and Heritage Tree Conservation program collected acorns at the base of the Salem Oak but saw no evidence that the tree's days were numbered. From those acorns, nearly 1,200 seedlings sprouted, were transferred into tubes and now are being nurtured in the greenhouse at the New Jersey Forest Service Nursery in Jackson Township.

"Generations of New Jerseyans will reap the benefits of this extraordinary planting," said DEP Commissioner Catherine McCabe.

For more information on New Jersey's Big and Heritage Tree program, visit



(above) The Salem Oak tree had a long history, it was the sole surviving tree from the original forest that covered the land when Quaker John Fenwick, founder of Salem, first arrived in 1675.

REMOVAL OF ASH TREES IN RESPONSE TO EMERALD ASH BORER

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a highly destructive insect from Asia, was detected in Morris County in 2017. The EAB is a small, metallic green, wood-boring beetle whose larvae feed on the inner bark of ash trees, ultimately disrupting the tree's ability to transport nutrients causing the tree's eventual decline and death. Since its discovery in Michigan in 2002, EAB has caused the deaths of hundreds of millions of ash trees in North America. Currently, EAB has been confirmed in 98 municipalities throughout New Jersey, including Morristown, and Morris, Chatham, Chester, Hanover, Randolph, Mount Olive and Washington Townships in Morris County.

Nothing has proven effective in eradicating EAB. Based on research of EAB infestations in the mid-west, experts predict a 99% mortality

rate for the State's ash trees. To prepare and manage for this threat, the Morris County Park Commission (MCPC) adopted an EAB Response Plan in 2018. As part of this plan, the MCPC will preemptively remove ash trees from high-use areas of the park system that will eventually pose a safety hazard as they die from the impacts of EAB. Taking no action will result in significantly higher costs, as well as high safety risks to over 4 million annual visitors to Park Commission facilities.

Over 12,000 ash trees have been inventoried in high-use areas throughout the Morris County Park System. Ash trees are being prioritized for removal based on proximity to known EAB infestations. Ash tree removal is scheduled to take place at Central Park of Morris County, Hedden County Park, Mennen Sports Arena,

Historic Speedwell and areas along the West Morris Greenway at Hugh Force Park between December 2019 and March 2020. This is the second phase of a long-term effort to remove trees from high hazard areas in Morris County Parks.

In addition to tree removal, the MCPC is working with the NJ Department of Agriculture and United States Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection Service to release biocontrol agents in attempts to control EAB. Several species of stingless wasps from Asia that attack EAB larvae and/or eggs are being used for this purpose. Wasps do not pose any risks to people, pets or native insects.

For more information about EAB and the MCPC's tree removal schedule including park closures, please visit morrisparks.net.

I AM MY BROTHER'S KEEPER! ARE YOU?

Submitted by 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 twenty-two 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.

About New Jersey Veterans Network

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our team is raising awareness of our veterans needs by organizing public speaking engagements, meeting with business and political leaders across the state and sponsoring fundraising events. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. To ensure that EVERY single one of our veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this great country, receives the resources that they require and deserve. If you are interested in joining our team, would like us to speak at your event, or contributing to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org.



(above) Operation Rebound is 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.

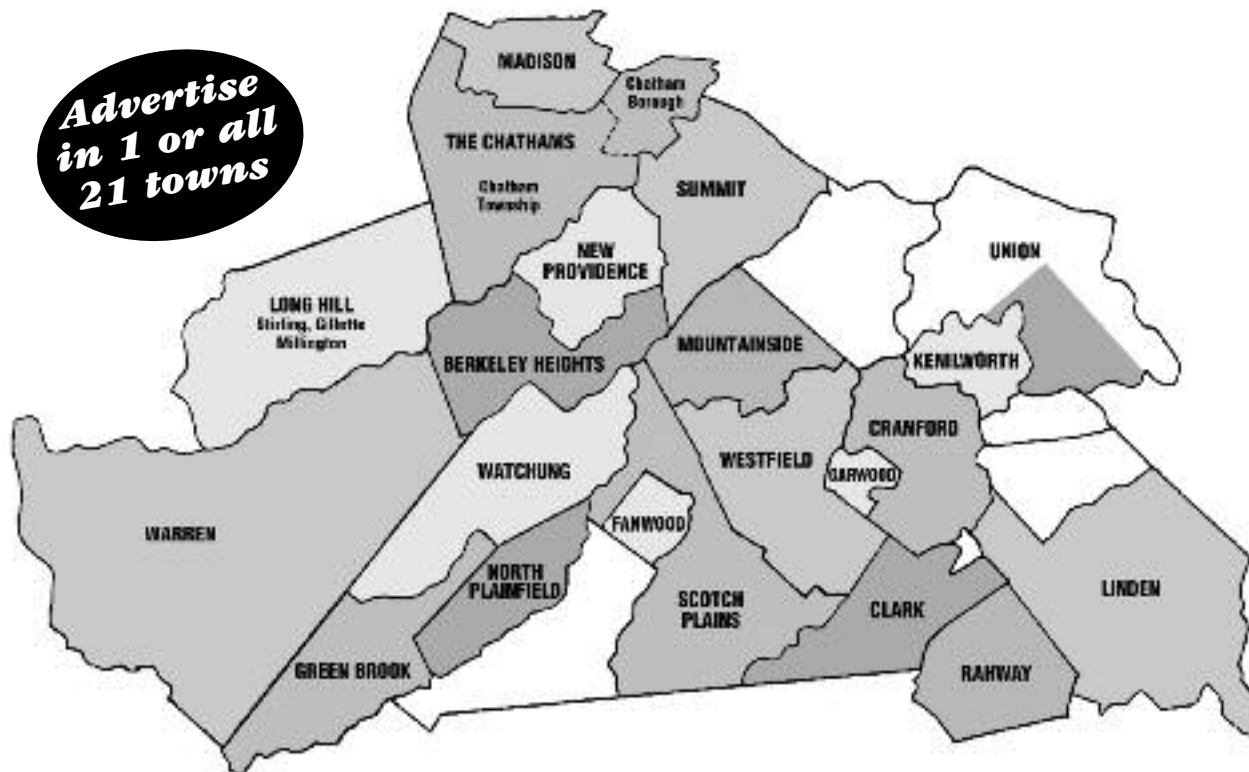
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9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
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DON'T FALL FOR SCAM CALLS AND EMAILS IMPERSONATING IRS

The IRS is urging the public to be aware of suspicious individuals claiming to be from the IRS.

Thousands of people have lost millions of dollars and their personal information to tax scams. Scammers use the regular mail, telephone, or email to set up individuals, businesses, payroll, and tax professionals.

Scammers and cyberthieves continue to use the IRS as bait. The most common tax scams are phone calls and emails from thieves who pretend to be from the IRS. Scammers use the IRS name,

logo, fake employee names and badge numbers to try to steal money and identities from taxpayers.

Taxpayers need to be wary of phone calls or automated messages from someone who claims to be from the IRS. Often, these criminals will say taxpayers owe money and demand payment right away. Other times, scammers will lie to taxpayers and say they're due a refund. The thieves ask for bank account information over the phone. The IRS warns taxpayers not to fall for these scams.

Below are several tips that will help filers avoid becoming a scam victim.

IRS EMPLOYEES WILL NOT:

- Call demanding an immediate payment. The IRS won't call taxpayers if they owe taxes without first sending a bill in the mail.
- Demand payment without allowing taxpayers to question or appeal the amount owed.
- Demand that taxpayers pay their taxes in a specific way, such as with a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to contact local police or similar agencies to arrest taxpayers for non-payment of taxes.
- Threaten legal action, such as a lawsuit.

If taxpayers don't owe or don't think they owe any tax, and they receive an inquiry like this, they should:

- Contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. Use TIGTA's "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" web page to report the incident.
- Report the incident to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" on FTC.gov. Add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your report.

In most cases, an IRS phishing scam is an unsolicited, fake email that claims to come from the IRS. Some emails link to sham websites that look real. The scammers' goal is to lure victims to give up their personal and financial information. If the thieves get what they're after, they use it to steal a victim's money and identity.

For those taxpayers who get a phishing email, the IRS offers this advice:

- Don't reply to the message.
- Don't give out your personal or financial information.

Forward the email to phishing@irs.gov. Then delete it.

Don't open any attachments or click on any links. They may have malicious code that will infect your computer.

For more information visit www.irs.gov or call your local police department non-emergency number.

CANCELED EVENTS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

THE CORONAVIRUS HAS LED TO THE CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT OF MANY PUBLIC EVENTS, SOMETIMES AT THE LAST MINUTE. AT PRESS TIME RENNA MEDIA HAS DONE OUR BEST TO STAY ON TOP OF CANCELLATIONS OF EVENTS AND REMOVING THEM FROM THE PUBLICATION. PLEASE CHECK WITH EVENT PROMOTERS AND VENUES IF YOU AREN'T SURE OF CANCELLATIONS.



Stay Strong...Stay Healthy A Little Help for Businesses Going Through a Tough Time.

**PLACE AN AD
FOR FREE ON
NJLOCALINFO.COM**



Businesses are suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus crisis. Many have to change the way they do business. This is an open invite to post a FREE ad or press release on NJLOCALINFO.COM.

This is an easy, DO-IT-YOURSELF website.

Register one time for free in three easy steps. and post your ads.

- 1) Hit like to "Create Account" in nav bar in NJLOCALINFO.COM
- 2) Enter a "User Name" (one word) and Email address
- 3) Create password as per instructions

Use "Post an Ad" link and use the user interface to create an ad page.

Follow four steps to upload text and images.

Use discount code "RELIEF" at checkout for zero charge.

Classified ad options include:

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- Up to 10 key words
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- Sharable web page
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- Website Hosting: \$300 per year
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- SEO Services - average cost \$1,000 - \$2,000 per month
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