

# Clark Monthly NJ

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## CLARK GETS A VISIT FROM THE EASTER BUNNY

The Spirit of the season was not dampened at Clark Recreation as the Easter Bunny made a visit to Clark. Cars lined up on Westfield Ave. from 12-2 p.m. on Saturday, April 4, to do a drive by wave and catch a glimpse of the Easter Bunny. Mayor Sal Bonaccorso and Recreation Director Ralph Bernardo were on hand to wave and support the big rabbit. Over 150 cars, vans, and trucks drove by to see the joy in the children's faces after being in lockdown for last 3 weeks.

The annual Easter egg event was cancelled so the Easter Bunny visit was the next best thing.



Photos by Clark Recreation Department

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## Clark Monthly NJ

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## NJ PRIMARY ELECTIONS MOVED TO TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020

Executive Order 120 postpones primary elections on Tuesday, June 2 to Tuesday, July 7 in response to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Includes primaries for President, US Senate, US House of Rep, 25th District NJ Legislature, county and municipal elections.

Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi advised voters at risk to plan ahead and use a Vote-by-Mail ballot to participate in the upcoming Primary Election, in accordance with guidance from health officials regarding the coronavirus COVID-19.

"Persons at risk are being advised to avoid crowded situations and maintain social distance," said Ms. Rajoppi. "With the outbreak of COVID-19, there is all the more reason to use a Vote-by-Mail ballot and ensure your voice is heard on Election Day."

Under New Jersey state law, any eligible voter can use a Vote-by-Mail ballot. There is no requirement to provide a reason.

"Every Vote-by-Mail ballot is counted in every

election, the same as for in-person voting," Ms. Rajoppi said.

Voters are advised to use Vote-by-Mail as a matter of routine, to avoid any unforeseen circumstances that could prevent them from voting in person on Election Day.

Voters who have never used a Vote-by-Mail ballot can apply for one now, by visiting the County Clerk's elections website at [unioncountyvotes.com](http://unioncountyvotes.com) for a downloadable version. To have an application sent by mail, call the County Clerk's Elections Division at 908-527-4996.

After the Vote-by-Mail application is approved, the voter will receive their ballot prior to Election Day. This year, the Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, June 2 in New Jersey. The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3.

For more information about all County Clerk programs and services, visit online at [ucnj.org/county-clerk](http://ucnj.org/county-clerk) or call 908-527-4787.

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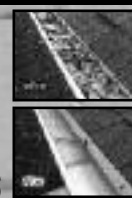
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## KUMPF MIDDLE SCHOOL REDESIGNATED AS A “SCHOOL TO WATCH”

Carl H. Kumpf Middle School in Clark, NJ was recently redesignated as a “School to Watch.”

167 exemplary middle-grades schools in Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Virginia have been named “Schools to Watch” as part of a recognition and improvement program developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. Having established partnerships with education leaders in these states, the Forum today announced the names of schools in each state that meet its strict criteria.

Each school was selected by state leaders for its academic excellence, its responsiveness to the needs and interests of young adolescents, and its commitment to helping all students achieve at high levels. In addition, each school has strong leadership, teachers who work together to improve curriculum and instruction, and a commitment to assessment and accountability to bring about continuous improvement.

Michelle Hayward, Chair of the National Forum’s Schools to Watch Fidelity Committee stated, “These schools demonstrate that high-performing middle grades schools have a clear focus on academic growth and achievement. They also recognize the importance of meeting the needs of all of their students and ensuring that

each and every child has access to a rigorous, high-quality education. We are proud to have these schools serve as models from which others can learn.”

Selection is based on a written application that required schools to show how they met criteria developed by the Forum. Schools that appeared to meet the criteria were then visited by state teams who observed classrooms, interviewed administrators, teachers, students, and parents, and looked at achievement data, suspension rates, quality of lessons, and student work. Schools are recognized for a three-year period; and at the end of three years, schools must repeat the process in order to be re-designated. 119 schools of the 167 recognized have maintained or increased their levels of excellence and are being redesignated. The schools vary in size from several hundred to several thousand students and represent urban, suburban, and rural communities.

“We are pleased that our Schools to Watch program has shown that schools can meet high academic expectations while preserving a commitment to healthy development and equity for all students,” said Ericka Uskali, National Forum Executive Director. “These Schools to Watch are indeed special; they make education so exciting that students and teachers don’t want to miss a day. These schools have proven that it is possible to overcome barriers to achieving excellence, and any middle-grades school in any

state can truly learn from their examples,” Uskali said.

Launched in 1999, Schools to Watch began as a national program to identify middle-grades schools across the country that were meeting or exceeding specialized criteria developed by the Forum. In 2002, the Forum began working with states to replicate the Schools to Watch program as a way to introduce the Forum’s criteria for high-performance and identify middle grades schools that meet or exceed that criteria. Different education organizations have taken the lead in each state, but all have received training and support from the Forum to implement their Schools to Watch programs. All together, 17 states are currently involved in the program and the addition of these schools raises the total number of active Schools to Watch to 495 nationwide and one internationally.

The National Forum sponsors the Schools to Watch state program with the support of its members and the State Schools to Watch programs. Schools will convene at the Schools to Watch Conference in the Washington, DC area June 24-27, 2020.

The National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform is an alliance of educators, researchers, national associations, and officers of professional organizations and foundations dedicated to improving education in the middle grades.



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## COVID-19 SCAM WARNING

The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs is alerting consumers to be aware of a number of apparent scams related to COVID-19. To avoid this and some of the tactics being reported as possible scams, the Division recommends:

Don't let CDC imposters into your home. Representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are not going door-to-door seeking information or conducting surveillance on COVID-19. Imposters should be reported to local authorities and the Division.

Don't fall for fake cures. Beware of in-store or online advertisements for products that claim to cure or prevent COVID-19 or other similar offers. No cure or preventative medicine has been approved for sale.

Look out for phishing emails. Cybercriminals may take advantage of global concern and interest in COVID-19 to try to convince email recipients to open links or attachments that may direct them to malicious websites or deliver malware. Stay away from COVID-19 related information that does not come from a trusted

source, to avoid exposing your personal information.

Keep in mind not everything online may be factual. The internet is full of information, but be mindful of its accuracy. As false reports spread regarding the origination and spread of COVID-19, rely only on trusted sources for information.

Be wary of unsolicited calls. Whether they are offering health insurance, including to supplement Medicare or Medicaid benefits, or a cure or treatment for COVID-19, refrain from sharing your personal information over the phone, unless you have initiated the call.

Avoid internet adoption scams. Scammers are falsely misrepresenting themselves as CDC employees, and asking victims to send money overseas to adopt a pet being held at a quarantine station. The CDC does not quarantine pets or would not ask for payment to bring an animal into the U.S.

For more information please visit [njconsumeraffairs.gov/.../C19-Scam-Warnings.aspx](http://njconsumeraffairs.gov/.../C19-Scam-Warnings.aspx)

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## ICE HOCKEY TEAM WINS 2020 NJIHL MCMULLEN CUP



(above) The Johnson Varsity Ice Hockey Team won the 2020 NJIHL McMullen Cup at Codey Arena in West Orange.

Photos by Clark Public Schools

### *A Thank You To All Front Liners*

The entire staff at ERA Village Green Realtors wish to extend a huge thank you message to all front line workers during these times of uncertainty. Those are the health care workers, EMS workers, Grocery workers, Postal Service, other delivery services, the police, fire and sanitation workers, food processors, truckers, transportation workers, banks, and restaurant businesses.

And thank you to everyone who is helping to save lives by staying home and practicing social distancing.

We are here for you too,

Stay safe

*Anthony D Agostino*

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(above, l-r) Junior Anthony Morreale , Senior Nicolas Galati, and Senior Michael Midrano were presented with the 2020 McMullen Cup at Codey Arena in West Orange.

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## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SUPPORTS STRUGGLING FOOD PANTRIES

On Thursday, April 9, 2020, the Knights of Columbus donated \$50,000 to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, one in a series of donations to food banks and food distribution programs totaling \$1 million across 18 U.S. cities, part of their Order's efforts to help those in need during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

One of New Jersey's oldest and largest social service agencies, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark helps over 60,000 individuals and families each year to improve the quality of their lives and enhance their self-worth and dignity. The donation from the Knights of Columbus will be used to purchase food to be distributed to Catholic Charities' Emergency Food and Nutrition Network, a program that coordinates the bulk food collection and distribution through a network of 80 volunteer-run food pantries and shelters throughout the Archdiocese. This donation comes at a vital time, as many of the food pantries are reporting an increase in demand. With these funds, Catholic Charities will be able to purchase food in bulk and distribute the packages to food pantries throughout the Archdiocese of Newark, and will provide over 8,600 households with approximately 36,000 meals.

According to John Westervelt, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities, "We are grateful to the Knights of Columbus for this most generous

donation. As the days go by, more and more families are going without pay. We anticipate that the demand at food pantries will only keep increasing, and from people who might never have sought out help from a food pantry before. This donation is a true blessing for people in need during the coronavirus pandemic."

About Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark

Tracing its roots to 1903, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark is a not-for-profit social service agency of the Roman Catholic Church within the Archdiocese of Newark. As one of New Jersey's oldest and largest agencies, Catholic Charities serves over 60,000 individuals and families each year in over 87 programs. Catholic Charities as a ministry of the Archdiocese of Newark participates in the Church's social mission by recognizing the inherent dignity and worth of all people and responding with sincere Christian compassion to the corporeal needs of the poor and marginalized. The service of Catholic Charities is inspired by faith in Jesus Christ, Sacred Scripture, and the continuing exposition of Catholic social teaching. Through these activities, Catholic Charities strives to assist individuals in need, strengthen families, and provide those it serves with an experience of God's mercy. Catholic Charities' programs provide shelters for the homeless, food to the impoverished; care for the elderly and

mentally ill, and education to children with developmental disabilities. Catholic Charities is a concrete illustration of the Church's commitment to ease suffering and bring social justice and hope to all, without regard to religion, race or culture. Last year, the Emergency Food and Nutrition Network provided over 164,000 pounds of food to over 27,000 households.

For more information about Catholic Charities or naming opportunities, please contact Catholic Charities at (973) 596-4100, or visit our website at [www.ccannj.org](http://www.ccannj.org) for more information.



(above, l-r) Catholic Charities staff including John Westervelt, Chief Executive Officer; Sharon Reilly-Tobin, Director of Volunteer Services; John Blomquist, Esq. General Counsel & Chief Administrator of Human Resources, and, Elizabeth McClendon, Associate Executive Director.

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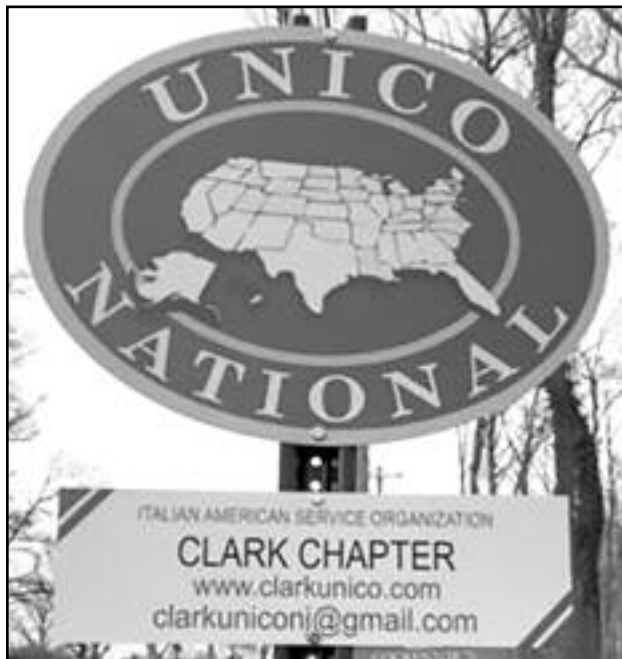
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## UNICO SIGNS

Clark UNICO President Joe Arancio is happy to announce the installation of Clark UNICO signs at entrances into the Township of Clark. DPW installed the signs for the organization with approval from the Mayor and Council.

Clark UNICO is an Italian-American organization. We continue to grow every day. Our members enjoy gatherings and trips. Through our many fundraisers, we have provided scholarships to Clark high school seniors, and have made donations to all the local youth teams in Clark. If you are interested in becoming a member email [CLARKUNICONJ@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CLARKUNICONJ@GMAIL.COM).



## FRIENDS OF THE CLARK LIBRARY NEWS

*Submitted by Karen DeMarco*

Read Across America was celebrated at the Clark Library's birthday party for Dr. Seuss, followed by Family Night at Blaze Pizza. Stories, a short movie, and a special birthday cake were enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Shop Rite for donating the cake. This event was sponsored by the Friends of the Clark Library.

Take Your Child to the Library Day was attended by 130 children! After "The Eyes of the Wild Show", children came to an ice cream party, sponsored by the Friends. Special thanks to Acme of Clark for donating the ice cream. Children's author Linda Yianolatos was on hand to talk to the children, and autograph books.

Looking for a free Family Fun Day? Free

passes are available for the Intrepid Sea, Air, & Space Museum, The Yogi Berra Museum in Montclair, The Stickley Museum, The Children's Museum of Manhattan, Liberty Hall, The Morris Museum, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, and The Newark Museum. Passes are available at the library.

We are actively seeking more members who could assist in planning fundraisers. More fundraisers mean more programs, materials, events, etc. we can provide for the library and its patrons. Meetings are held monthly from September through June. Please join us.

Kindly contact us at [clarklibraryFOL@gmail.com](mailto:clarklibraryFOL@gmail.com). Like us on Facebook – Friends of the Clark Library.

## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND CEREMONY - CANCELLED

Due to the Coronavirus and Governor Murphy's mandate of large group gatherings, the Memorial Day parade and ceremony scheduled for Monday, May 25th 2020, is cancelled.

Memorial Day commemorates the men and women who died while servicing their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. In other words, the purpose of Memorial Day is to

memorialize the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. We spend time remembering those who lost their lives and could not come home, reflecting on their service and why we have the luxury and freedom that we enjoy today. Remember to fly the American flag on this day.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call 732-428-8400. Stay safe.



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# MAY EVENTS FROM THE CLARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Even though our doors are closed our librarians are still here to help!

We will answer your questions Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. You may call 732-388-5999 and leave a message or email [reference@clarklibrary.org](mailto:reference@clarklibrary.org) and a librarian will respond within a few hours. We also have a chat function on our website at [clarklibrary.org](http://clarklibrary.org).

All materials currently checked out from the Clark Public Library have been renewed until May 31, 2020.

We will re-open when the governor lifts the ban, but until then, please see our virtual offerings below. As the month progresses, more virtual activities may be added to the schedule. If we do open before the end of the month, please call or check our online calendar to see what events have been added. The virtual events are also on our online calendar.

## STORYTIMES FOR KIDS:

### Story Shorts with Scout

*Every day, Monday-Friday*

Scout (our Children's Librarian's cat) listens to a new story and sometimes sticks around long enough for a rhyme, song, or finger play. These are posted on our Facebook Children's Group page or you may sign up to receive a link to our YouTube channel via email by filling out a Google form at this address: <https://tinyurl.com/yx3zh24>

### Chapter a Day for Elementary Students

*Every day, Monday-Friday*

Each day we post a video of our Children's Librarian reading a chapter or two of a book for elementary students. For now, we are reading books that are choices in the Battle of the Books for 3rd and 4th graders in Clark Schools. Even though the battle probably won't be held this school year, these are some good books! Currently, we are offering our virtual programs via Zoom. Please register for any programs by emailing [reference@clarklibrary.org](mailto:reference@clarklibrary.org) and state which program you would like to attend and you will be sent a link to the meeting.

### Virtual Maker Monday

*Monday, May 4, 3:00 p.m.*

We will be doing activities such as a craft or STEM activity with items commonly found around the house via Zoom. Everyone who registers will be emailed a list of the items we will use in advance along with the link to join the meeting. Even if you don't have the materials, you can still watch and learn for when you can get the materials, plus see library or school friends! Today will be a Star Wars craft. May the fourth be with you!

### Virtual Non-Fiction Book Club

*Monday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.*

Join us for a discussion of any non-fiction books you have read recently that you would like to share with the group. Please email [reference@clarklibrary.org](mailto:reference@clarklibrary.org) to register and a Zoom meeting invitation will be emailed.

### (Virtual Craft) No Sew Pillow Cover with Cricut Vinyl

*Tuesday, May 5, 4:00 p.m.*

We will be making a no-sew pillow cover from old T-shirts and will decorate them with a Cricut vinyl. You will need old T-shirts or any fabric and scissors for this project. A variety of Cricut patterns will be shown, so you can pick one and iron it on later. Please email [reference@clarklibrary.org](mailto:reference@clarklibrary.org) to register. A Zoom meeting invite will be sent to all who register.

### Virtual Cookbook Club

*Wednesday, May 6, 1:00 p.m.*

Join us as we discuss what you've been cooking and baking during this time at home. Share comfort food recipes, recipes that helped you minimize trips to the grocery store, or complicated recipes you've finally tackled. Please email [reference@clarklibrary.org](mailto:reference@clarklibrary.org) to register and a Zoom meeting invite will be sent.

### Virtual Who Was...Book Club

*Wednesday, May 6, 3:00 p.m.*

Join us for a virtual meeting of the Who Was...

Book Club via Zoom. There are some Who Was... books available to download using Libby or eLibraryNJ. If you can't get one, you can talk about one you read before or even just talk about any famous person you have read about!

If you have Netflix, you can even watch the Who Was show and talk about someone you learned about on the show!

### (Virtual Trivia) Disney & Pixar Movies

*Thursday, May 7, 6:00 p.m.*

Join us for a trivia about Disney & Pixar Movies. Please email [reference@clarklibrary.org](mailto:reference@clarklibrary.org) to register and a Zoom meeting invitation will be emailed back.

### Virtual Preschool Story & Craft

*Friday, May 8, 11:00 a.m.*

A story, rhyme, and simple craft. Please register to be sent a materials list in advance.

### Virtual Maker Monday

*Monday, May 11, 3:00 p.m.*

We will be doing activities such as a craft or STEM activity with items commonly found around the house via Zoom. Everyone who registers will be emailed a list of the items we will use in advance along with the link to join the meeting.

### Virtual Afternoon Book Club

*Tuesday, May 12, 1:00 p.m.*

We will be discussing Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng. Please email [reference@clarklibrary.org](mailto:reference@clarklibrary.org) to register and a Zoom meeting invitation will be emailed.

### Virtual Preschool Story & Craft

*Wednesday, May 13, 11:00 a.m.*

A story, rhyme, and simple craft. Please register to be sent a materials list in advance.

### Virtual Kid's Book Club

*Thursday, May 14, 4:00 p.m.*

Join us via Zoom to talk about any book you have read and loved and want to share.

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## NEW JERSEY YOUTH SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES VIRTUAL AUDITIONS VIA ZOOM FOR ITS 2020-21 SEASON

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) announced that it will hold virtual auditions for the 2020-21 season from May 18–June 5 using the video conferencing platform Zoom. Audition registration for NJYS' 15 ensembles including strings, winds, percussion, jazz, chamber music, and three full orchestras is available online now through May 10. Audition requirements and more information can be found at [NJYS.org](http://NJYS.org). Interested candidates with specific questions can also send an email to [info@njys.org](mailto:info@njys.org). The deadline for audition registration is Sunday, May 10, 2020.

Said Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Helen H. Cha-Pyo, "I believe looking to the future is important in this time of uncertainty, not only to maintain a sense of normalcy, but also because it is healthy for our young musicians to have goals."

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), founded in 1979, is a tiered orchestral program

offering ensemble education for students in grades 3-12 across New Jersey. NJYS has grown from one orchestra of 65 students to over 500 students in 15 different orchestras and ensembles, including the internationally recognized Youth Symphony. NJYS ensembles have performed in venues including the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Carnegie Hall, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. NJYS has received numerous prestigious awards for its adventurous programming from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) and has had six European tours, including participation in the Summa Cum Laude International Youth Festival and Competition (Vienna), winning First Prizes in July 2014 and 2017.

Now in its 41st season, NJYS continues to achieve musical excellence through intensive instruction and high-level performance. Under

the guidance of a talented team of conductors, coaches, and teaching artists, students are immersed in challenging repertoire, learning the art of ensemble playing, and exploring their potential in a supportive and inclusive environment. NJYS remains committed to programming works by diverse composers and featured 20th century African-American and women composers such as Duke Ellington, George Walker, Yvonne Desportes, Emma Lou Diemer, Julia Perry, and Florence Price this season.

The New Jersey Youth Symphony is a program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts. Wharton is New Jersey's largest non-profit performing arts education organization serving over 1,500 students of all ages and abilities through a range of classes and ensembles. In addition to the New Jersey Youth Symphony, programs include the Paterson Music Project and Performing Arts School.



(above) Audition registration for New Jersey Youth Symphony's 15 ensembles is available online now through May 10.



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# CARING CONTACT CONTINUES TO ANSWER CALLS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

CLARK MONTHLY • Page 13 • May 2020

With residents of New Jersey being asked to stay home to fight the spread of Covid-19, many people find themselves feeling isolated and experiencing high levels of anxiety. Caring Contact, a local listening and crisis hotline, continues to help individuals during this difficult time. As a member agency of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, Caring Contact cares for those who are in crisis in central and northern New Jersey and acts as a backup to other Lifeline agencies throughout the country. Additionally, they operate a local "warm" line to assist individuals who may not be in crisis but are experiencing stress themselves, with a family member, friend or co-worker.

Approximately 90 volunteers answer the phone lines at Caring Contact. "It has been a challenge during this time to ensure that volunteers are kept safe", stated Executive Director Janet Sarkos. "All business operations were moved remotely in early March. We've altered our hotline operations so that only one listener at any a time is in each of our phone rooms. We are working together as an organization to ensure each phone station and

other "common touch areas" are cleaned thoroughly between listeners, to further protect against contamination. It is vital that we continue to answer calls during this time of heightened anxiety".

But even with these office precautions, Caring Contact has updated their telephone and IT systems so they can now transition many of their volunteers to answer both the Lifeline and the local warm line from remote locations. Call volume is up. We took 2,986 calls in the first quarter last year as compared to 4,012 this year. We've been tracking COVID-related calls. In the middle of March 20% of our calls were COVID-related. From 3/29 - 4/12, it had risen to 32%.

If you are interested in learning more about Caring Contact please visit their website at [caringcontact.org](http://caringcontact.org). If you, or someone you know, is in crisis please call 800.273.8255, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

If you are feeling isolated and need to talk to someone please call 908.232.2880, 7 days a week from 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. (based on volunteer availability). We are here to listen.

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# CLARK'S FALLEN HEROES

*Submitted by William J. "Duff" Duffy, A long-time Clark resident who has researched the Clark Fallen Heroes for over 40 years*

From the Civil War to Afghanistan, 23 Clark boys, residents, or ALJ alumni, went off to war and did not come home. Heroes - every one of them.

I feel deeply that their sacrifices must be told so that they are not forgotten, especially by our youth. They have given of their lives while our country was at war, so that we may live in freedom. You may not know them, but in gratitude pay tribute to them every Memorial Day. Let's take a brief look at each of them, but before we do, here's a "Clark's Fallen Heroes" portion of the Gettysburg Address: "that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion - that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth," President Abraham Lincoln November 19, 1863.

## CIVIL WAR

### **BULLMAN, JAMES, Cpl., CO.C 14th New Jersey Volunteer Regiment**

James resided with his family on the "Bullman Farm" on Raritan Rd., where the Bank of America/Acme Supermarket is presently located. He was Killed in Action on June 1, 1864 at the Battle of Cold Harbor with 7,000 other Union forces during that battle. On that fateful date at 1700 hours, James was in the front line with the 14th, as they attacked the strongly entrenched Confederate forces. A dreadful battle was fought, lasting long after dark as the 14th suffered critically, losing 240 in killed and wounded, including Cpl. James Bullman. After Cold Harbor, Commanding General Hiram Ulysses Grant said to his staff: "I regret this assault, more than anyone I ever ordered." This Fallen Hero is buried in the Bullman family plot in South Plainfield.

## WORLD WAR I

### **MILLER, JOHN B., U.S. Army former address 2 Valley Road, Clark**

His father Adam received a telegram on December 9, 1918, that his son, previously reported as "Missing in Action," since October 16, 1918, during the Allies final winning offensive action, was now reported to have died November 12, 1918, following "Wounds Received in Action." This Fallen Hero was a member of the 155th Infantry Brigade, 309th Infantry, 78th Division. On October 16, 1918, Miller was with his unit attacking German forces during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, which was part of the final Allied offensive of World War I that stretched along the entire Western Front. During this attack, John was severely wounded and would eventually die from those wounds on November 12, 1918, one day after the Armistice was signed ending the war.

## WORLD WAR II

### **BIENKO, BENNIE, S1C Serial No. 02245585, U.S. Navy**

"Killed in Action" November 13, 1942 at the "Naval Battle of Guadalcanal" while aboard the U.S.S. Monssen. This Fallen Hero, who resided on Lincoln Boulevard prior to his entry into the Navy, fought in this particular battle along with fellow Clark resident John L. Ruddy, Jr. who was aboard the U.S.S. Juneau. Bienko was killed at approximately 0200 hours and is now considered Clark's first World War II casualty. Ruddy was killed at approximately 1100 hours on the same day and is now considered Clark's second World War II casualty. NOTE: Up until the time of William J. Duffy's research, Ruddy was considered Clark's first World War II casualty and that is why the Clark VFW is named and dedicated to Ruddy, an honor rightly deserved. However, Duffy was able to confirm the time of their deaths.

### **BITSKO, CHARLES, Pvt. Serial No. 32559648, U.S. Army**

"Died in the Line of Duty" on November 11, 1943 while aboard a troop transport ship in the Pacific. On August 21, 1944 a new bridge was named in his honor in the vicinity of his unit's camp in the South Pacific. This Fallen Hero grew up in Hillside, but at the time of his entry into the army he resided on Raritan Road. He is buried at a cemetery in Hillside.

### **CLAUSS, PAUL J., PFC Serial No. 32240351, U.S. Army 77th Infantry Division**

"Killed in Action" by machine gun fire, December 15, 1944 on Leyte Island, the Philippines, while coming to the aid of a wounded soldier. Paul, who was 31 years old when killed on his birthday, was the victim of Japanese machine gun fire while saving the life of another soldier in a battle on the Island of Leyte in the Phillipines. The other soldier had been wounded in the leg and was rescued by Paul before he himself was killed. This Fallen Hero grew up in Elizabeth, but later moved with his parents to Coldevin Road. He is buried at St. Gertrude's Cemetery in Colonia.

### **GRAVES, MELVYN, Pvt. Serial No. 42100647, U.S. Army**

"Killed in Action" January 24, 1945 while serving in France at the end of the Battle of the Bulge. This hero was under heavy mortar and artillery fire and was hit in the neck by a piece of shrapnel. His father, Herman Graves, was Mayor of Clark 1927-1932. On 24 December 1944, this Fallen Hero wrote a Christmas Eve letter to his son Robert telling him that he would be home next Christmas and the family would all be happy together again. Prior to his entry into the army, Melvyn resided on Valley Road.

### **GREEN, RUSSELL W., Pvt. Serial No. 42000833, U.S. Army**

"Killed in Action" April 26, 1944 while serving in the Italian theatre of war on Anzio Beach, Italy. Russell was inducted into the U.S. Army on June 29, 1943 and was assigned to Co.C, 135th Infantry of the 34th Infantry Division. On that fateful date, at Anzio Beach, Italy, Russell's unit was attacking the German lines and came under intense mortar and artillery fire. During this attack, Russell was Killed in Action. He was just two days short of his 19th birthday and was in the service for less than 10 months. Prior to his death, Russell wrote two letters home to his family; both just days before his death. In the one dated April 25, 1944, the day before his death, he requests that his family send him chocolate candy. This Fallen Hero grew up in Linden, but is considered a Clark Fallen Hero because after he entered the service, his family moved to Raritan Rd., thus becoming a Clark resident. Russell is buried at the U.S. National Cemetery in Beverly, New Jersey.

### **GROSSMAN, ALVIN R., 2nd Lt. Serial No. 0-803810, U.S. Army Air Corps**

"Died in the Line of Duty", June 14, 1943 while conducting training exercises aboard a navigation training plane. The Lieutenant had just earned his wings as an Army Pilot two weeks prior to his death.

This Fallen Hero is buried at the OHEB Sholem Cemetery in Hillside.

### **HUTCHINSON, EUGENE F. Torpedoman's Mate 3C, U.S. Navy**

"Killed in Action" 7 November 1944 while serving aboard the USS Albacore (SS218). This submarine was sunk on its 11th patrol by mines off North Hokkaido Island, Japan. All hands were lost and is on "Eternal Patrol". On October 24, 1944, Albacore left Pearl Harbor and arrived at Midway Island on October 28 to top off her fuel tanks and was never heard from again. On November 7, 1944 a Japanese patrol boat witnessed the explosion of a submerged submarine (presumed to be Albacore) and saw many items rise to the surface. This Fallen Hero grew up in Florida, but married Clark resident Gertrude Amon and they moved to her parents' address on Westfield Avenue.

### **MAKOWSKI, EDWARD J. Serial No. 0-751919, U.S. Army Air Corps**

"Killed in Action" March 3, 1944 while serving as a bombardier aboard a B-24 Liberator. This hero was assigned to the 14th Air Force, 450th Bomb Group, 723rd Squadron. This Fallen Hero, who resided on Lake Avenue prior to his entry into Army Air Corps, was taxiing with his other crew members down the runway for takeoff when the plane suddenly braked to avoid takeoff and came to a halt past the end of the runway. The plane exploded and burst into flames with a full supply of fuel and bombs. All 10 crew members including Edward were lost.



# CLARK'S FALLEN HEROES (continued)

**PADUSNIAK, JOSEPH G., Tech 5**  
**Serial No. 32385995, U.S. Army**

"Killed in Action" December 18, 1944 while serving with the 99th Infantry Division at the "Battle of the Bulge." This surprise attack began on December 16, 1944, at 0530 hours, as 300,000 German troops, backed by artillery and hundreds of huge Panther, Mark IV and new Tiger tanks struck along a 85 mile front. On 18 December- the final day of Joseph's life-the Germans continued attacking and advancing. Elements of the 394th Infantry Regiment- Joe's unit- were attacked throughout the morning. On the third day of the battle, Joe was somewhere on the battlefield when he succumbed to inflicted wounds and gave the ultimate sacrifice for his country. This Fallen Hero who resided on Westfield Avenue prior to his entry into the army, was killed along with 30,000 other American forces during this battle. He is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Clark.

**RUDDY, JOHN L., Jr., S2C**  
**Serial No. 06464195**

"Killed in Action" November 13, 1942 at the "Naval Battle of Guadalcanal" while aboard the U.S.S. Juneau. On that fateful day, the Juneau was struck by torpedoes fired from the Japanese submarine I- 26 at 1100 hours and one of the torpedoes entered Juneau's ammunition magazines. When the smoke cleared there was nothing to be seen of the Juneau. It is presumed that John was Killed in Action at this time. This Fallen Hero, who resided on Prescott Turn prior to his entry into the Navy, was killed along with 900 other sailors aboard the Juneau that day and subsequently thereafter in the shark-infested waters.

**SCHMITT, MARTIN, Cpl.**  
**Serial No. 32594212, U.S. Army**

"Killed in Action" 30 November 1944 while serving with 102nd Infantry Div. near Linnoch, Germany. Buried overseas at the American Military Cemetery in the Netherlands. This Fallen Hero grew up in Roselle Park, but married Clark resident Margaret Carlson who was his high school sweetheart. They lived on Westfield Avenue with Margaret's parents prior to his entry into the Army. When "Schmitt" Lane was selected for a new Clark street after the war, whoever ordered the street sign inadvertently misspelled this hero's last name. The street today remains "Schmidt" Lane.

**WITKOWSKI, JOSEPH, PFC.**  
**Serial No. 12203849, U.S. Army**

"Killed in Action" July 9, 1944, while serving with the 8th Infantry Division near St. Lo, France, during the Normandy breakout. This Fallen Hero who resided on Hart Street prior to his entry into the Army was honored for his service along with fellow Clark Fallen Hero Joseph Padusniak by renaming a portion of Hart Street into Joseph Street. He is buried at St. Gertrude's Cemetery.

## COLD WAR

**WILKES, JOHN, Jr., First Lt., USAF**

"Died in Service" October 9, 1958 while piloting an F100-F Super Sabre jet. Lt. Wilkes was on a routine training flight when his jet crashed in the desert near Phoenix, Arizona. He was 28 and resided at 465 Madison Hill Road. This Fallen Hero is buried in Arizona along with his infant son.

## VIETNAM

**BADAVAS, THOMAS E.**  
**U.S. Marine Corps, H/S Company**  
**1st Battalion, 9th PFC Marines**  
**3rd Marine Division**

Badavas died on February 21, 1967 when he was Killed in Action while on patrol as a result of an enemy hostile explosive device in the vicinity of Thua Thien Province, Vietnam. This Fallen Hero is buried at St. Gertrude's Cemetery, Colonia, New Jersey. Badavas graduated from ALJ in 1965 and resided on Myrtle Avenue, Garwood. He was survived by his parents and a brother.

**CORCORAN, KEVIN**  
**U.S. Marine Corps**  
**G Company, 2nd Battalion**  
**3rd PFC Marines, 3rd Marine Division**

Corcoran died on May 24, 1968 when he was Killed in Action while on patrol as a result of enemy hostile rifle fire in the vicinity of Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. This Fallen Hero is buried at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, East Hanover, New Jersey. Corcoran would have graduated from ALJ in 1968, but left school early to join the Marine Corps and resided on Willow Avenue, Garwood. He was survived by his mother.

**HARTMAN, RICHARD D., CMDR**  
**Serial No. 613595, U.S. Navy**

age 32. On July 18, 1967, Hartman's A-4E jet airplane fell victim to anti-aircraft fire near Phu Ly, Nam Ha Province, North Vietnam. He ejected safely, however, the next day four other Naval personnel were killed during an attempted rescue of Hartman. He was eventually captured and "Died in Captivity". His remains were repatriated on March 6, 1974 and he is buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Section 11. This Fallen Hero grew up in New York State and during his military career he listed his home address as Gertrude Street in Clark, which was the residence of his aunt where he visited and stayed many times.

**KUSPIEL, KENNETH, SP4, U.S. Army**

"Killed in Action" February 1, 1968 while serving in the infantry, as a result of multiple wounds from an exploding land mine in the vicinity of Chu Lai, Vietnam, at the beginning of the "Tet Offensive". This Fallen Hero graduated from Clark's ALJ High School in 1964 and attended Farleigh Dickinson University. He left school in 1966 to join the army with his high school buddies. Kuspiel resided with his family on Elm Street prior to his entry into the Army.

**SEVELL, ROBERT L., Capt.**

**Serial No. 093427, U.S. Marine Corps**

"Killed in Action" February 28, 1968 while co-piloting a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter enroute to a downed aircraft near the heroic Marine Base at Khe Sanh, Vietnam. On that fateful day, Bob was on a recovery mission when the aircraft was downed by heavy hostile automatic weapons fire. The aircraft exploded on impact with the ground and all 22 personnel aboard were Killed in Action, including Captain Sevell. This Fallen Hero graduated from Clark's ALJ High School in 1961. He was the starting quarterback of the Crusaders football team during his junior and senior years. Prior to his entry into the Marine Corps, Sevell and his wife Valerie resided on Oak Ridge Road with their son Bobby, who was less than a year old when his father died.

**WINTERS, JOHN P., LCPL**  
**U.S. Marine Corps**

"Killed in Action" May 25, 1969 after being hit by fragments from a mortar shell near Cam Lo, Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. This Fallen Hero resided on Colonial Drive prior to his entry into the Marine Corps.

## OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

**BENISH, STEPHEN C., PFC**

Age 20, U.S. Army, "Killed in Action" November 28, 2004 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, when he received enemy fire while on a dismounted patrol. Benish was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Howze, Korea. This Fallen Hero resided on Ivy Street with his family prior to his entry into the Army. Benish graduated from Clark's ALJ High School in 2002.

## OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

**HARVEY, JAMES, W., II, Sgt.**

Age 23, U.S. Army, "Killed in Action" June 20, 2011 in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with small-arms fire. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. This Fallen Hero wrote a last letter home to his family that was only to be opened upon his death. Harvey graduated from Clark's ALJ High School in 2005 and resided on Conger Way.

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## CALLING ALL GEEKS, NERDS, AND GAWKERS

Renna Media is putting a call out to the Geeks among us to appear on their podcast *Mind Your Own Local Business*. The show will showcase local businesses and people who are starting or growing a business, especially those in creative fields or doing something they have a passion for. Owner, Joe Renna, started his business in 1984 as a graphic designer that grew his studio into a marketing and advertising company. Now, along with his wife Tina, publishes 21 community monthly newspapers mailing out 135,000 to every home and business.

Joe says "I started my business right out of college and thought I would get a job if it didn't work out. It's been thirty five years and I never looked back. I thank all those who mentored me along the way, experienced business owners who were generous with their time and taught me best practices in running a businesses and the pitfalls to look out for."

As a way of paying it forward, Joe offers business and advertising advice to local business. This service is the focus of a new YouTube show. Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network is the YouTube Channel of Renna Media. *Mind Your Own Local Business* is the prime show. Its first episode will feature Katya Stec of Clark, New Jersey who launched her production company All Ages of Geek. Katya has teamed up with Renna Media made her platform, with over 100,000 subscribers, available to Renna Media advertisers and organizations.

Renna Media is recruiting businesses to participate. If you're a Geek or just Geek curious, a variety of advertising opportunities exist, from product placement to fully customized shows. All online advertisers will also be featured in the *Mind Your Own Local Business* column in 135,000 newspapers!

To learn more call Joe Renna at 908-447-1295 or email him at [joerenna@rennamedia.com](mailto:joerenna@rennamedia.com).



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Featured on Renna Media's YouTube Channel: Joe Renna's

HYPER LOCAL NETWORK

## KATYA STEC LAUNCHES ALL AGES OF GEEK

Geek culture knows no bounds. It crosses every social barrier and unites an eclectic group of people who share specific interests. The label, which usually is thrust upon a person, is now worn with pride. Geeks who historically existed at the fringes of the pop culture are now main stream. Their ranks are filled with regular folks. And the nerds of the baby boomer generation have joined the ranks.

The internet has given rise to a secret society. The image of a nerd playing video games in his parents' basement has been shattered. Geeks are among the masses, living, working, and playing next to regular folk. All Ages of Geek is a multimedia production company that speaks to them.

Katya Stec is a self-proclaimed geek from Clark, New Jersey who formed All Ages of Geek in 2019, with the core focus of producing content in tandem with the geek culture. She has been creating videos for eight years and has over 700 episodes posted on her website and on YouTube. She now has over 100,000 subscribers clocking over 20 million views!

Katya, who is a talented voice over artist and writer, is a product of home schooling where she was able to cultivate her interests. Now, at 26 years old, she has a career, doing what she loves.

Throughout 2020 All Ages of Geek will be traveling to several geek culture events, conventions, and expos. They aim at making some of the best high-quality content. At the same time, mass awareness and promotion campaigns would be in swing to set the base for their big launch in January 2021.

Katya has built a team of talented, creative fans who work together in producing podcasts and shows. All Ages of Geek has an article section on their website titled "This Just In." Their writers, who are from all parts of the world, submit weekly articles covering geek

culture events, topics and all forms of creativity.

Currently, they are also producing several video series and podcasts. The company is hopeful of churning out some of the best content and gathering a good base of loyal fans that would engage with the whole community and keep sharing their content to help them amass even more views, exposure, and popularity.

Katya says "Geek culture is what brings the world together. Despite our differences in race, religion, sexuality, and background. One thing is certain about geek culture, it unites us. All Ages of Geek's mission isn't just to entertain; it's to unite the geeks of all ages as part of an interactive community."

The company has a strong interactive community on YouTube and Twitch. The sense of community is both important and powerful and it does wonders when it comes to promoting the firm in the long run.

Their content spans different genres and caters to kids and adults alike. No doubt, if their vision manages to take the due shape, they are likely to become a massive hit among people, especially anime, video games and Dungeons and Dragons fans alike who would finally feel like they too truly belong.

All Ages of Geek has plenty of free content but viewers can access a lot more features by becoming paid members on Patreon or Twitch. They have over 300 members to date with a goal of 1,000 by 2021. They offer advertising opportunities, and their production team can produce original content for businesses and organizations.

To learn more about All Ages of Geek visit: [allagesofgeek.com/](http://allagesofgeek.com/)

Email-id: [pr@allagesofgeek.com](mailto:pr@allagesofgeek.com)

Website: <https://allagesofgeek.com>

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(above) Katya Stec on set in her home studio in Clark, New Jersey, where she produces shows for her All Ages of Geek broadcasts. Photo by Tatiana Szewczuk.

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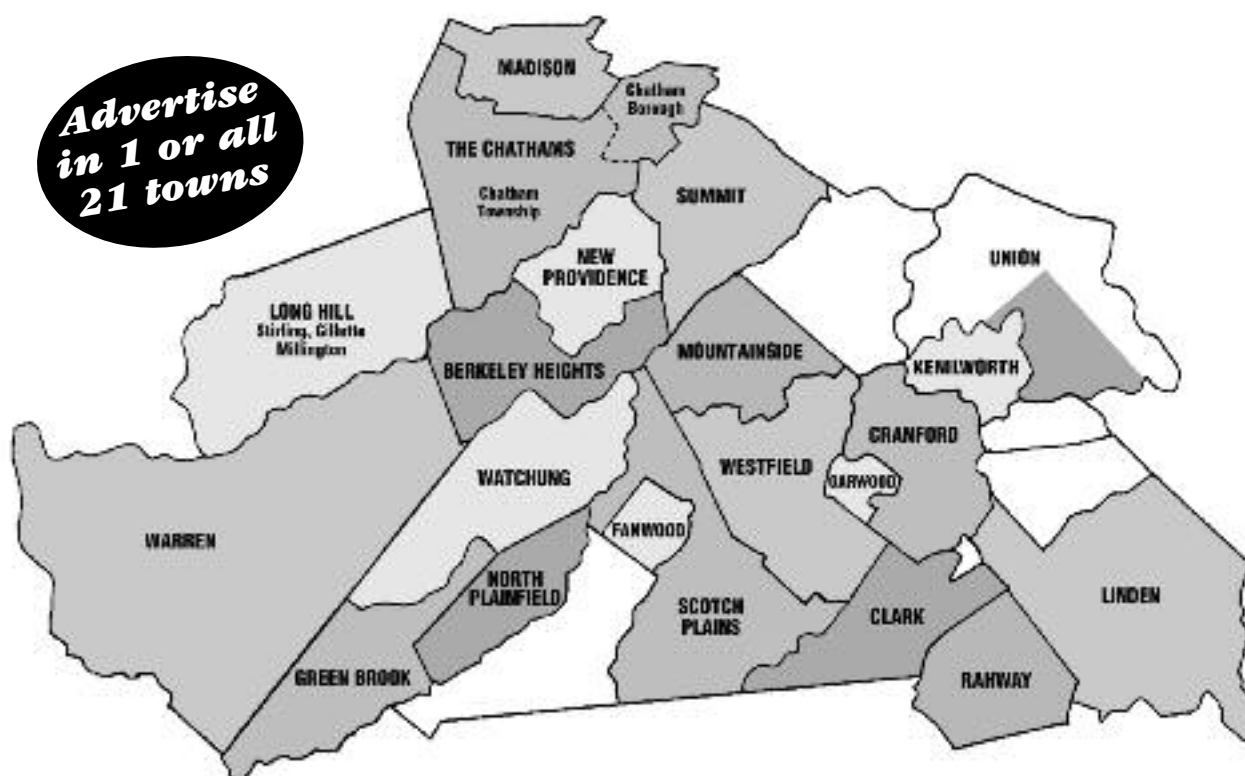
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# LATEST "MIND YOUR OWN LOCAL BUSINESS" SHOWS

on Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network on YouTube



See how businesses and organizations are getting by during the Covid-19 crisis on Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network on YouTube.

## RENNA MEDIA COLLABORATES WITH ALL AGES OF GEEK

Katya Stec reached out to Joe Renna of Renna Media when she was a teen exploring opportunities to express her creativity in his newspapers. Renna Media publishes twenty-one community newspapers and has an active web presence and social media network. Through the years, Katya has developed her own online media production platform and made her service available to Renna Media's readership and advertisers.

Renna Media has been in business since 1984. The focus of its publications is to promote community service organizations to a hyper-local market. Joe and his wife Tina deliver marketing, advertising and publishing services to local businesses and organizations, in-print and on line. They have joined forces with NJlocalinfo.com to offer website, SEO and social media services. By collaborating with All Ages of Geek they are able to offer video production and hosting.

Joe admits he has Geeky tendencies and shared "I have many Geeks among the folks I deal with on a day to day basis. The Geek culture is prevalent and is revealed when you get to know colleagues on a personal level. It would be fun to showcase businesses and people in my newspaper and in video. It is a great marketing tool and an ice breaker to connect businesses to like-minded customers."

Renna Media and All Ages of Geek has developed a simple inexpensive menu of production services for businesses to make a foray into online marketing. The all inclusive packages are:

- Product placement \$250
- 30 second commercial \$500
- 3 minute spot \$1,000
- 30 minute show \$1,500
- 3 hour shoot - \$2,000

All videos will also be blasted through the extensive social media network and the business will be featured in the newspapers, driving readers to the websites. The approach follows the model of Renna Media's newspapers: Delivering hometown community service news to a hyper-local audience, at affordable rates.

Businesses or organizations who would like more information or help with their marketing plans can call Joe Renna at 908-447-1295.

Email [joerenna@rennamedia.com](mailto:joerenna@rennamedia.com)

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Moet Imperial Champagne .....	750ml .....	\$42.99
Noble Wine 337, 667 .....	750ml .....	\$11.99
Papi (All Types) .....	1.5L .....	\$10.99
Ruffino Chianti .....	750ml .....	\$ 8.99
Ruffino Chianti .....	1.5 L .....	\$13.97
Ruffino Pinot Grigio .....	1.5L .....	\$13.99
Ruffino Tan label .....	750ml .....	\$19.99
Santa Margerita Pinot Grigio .....	750ml .....	\$22.09
Silver Oak Alexander Valley Cabernet .....	750ml .....	\$76.99
Simi Chardonnay .....	750ml .....	\$13.09
Woodbridge (All Types) .....	1.5L .....	\$12.49

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ABC prices prevail other prices, limited to store inventory.

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