

# Scotch Plains NJ

## WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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### RESCUE SQUAD CONTINUING TO SERVE DURING THIS CRISIS

Submitted by Contributing Author: Susan Baldani, a life member of the Rescue Squad

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is committed to providing the best care for the community while keeping its volunteers safe. Without our certified EMTs and drivers who answer the calls, the ambulances cannot go out. There are some things that residents can do to ensure that they, their family members, and their neighbors have access to this life-saving organization.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, such as a dry cough and fever, you should first contact your primary care doctor or medical professional who can advise you of the next steps that should be taken. Please remember that as always, calling 911 is only for true medical emergencies. You may be advised to drive yourself or have a family member drive you to the hospital; being transported by ambulance does not mean you will be seen quicker.

During this crisis, the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is still responding to everyday life-threatening medical issues such as heart attacks, strokes, and diabetic emergencies. It's vital to keep ambulances available for these situations.

However, if your doctor recommends going by ambulance, then calling 911 is the right course of action. Be sure to notify the dispatch personnel that you may have COVID-19 and expect to answer questions about symptoms such as:

- Do you have a fever?
- Are you hot to the touch?
- Do you have the chills?
- Are you having trouble breathing?
- Do you have a cough?
- Are you experiencing any new breathing problems?

First responders ask that you honestly and clearly answer the dispatcher's questions to better protect those who will come to help you. Also, don't be alarmed if first responders arrive wearing protective gear, which may consist of paper masks or N95 masks, eye protection, gloves, and/or gowns. Patients will also be provided with masks to wear while being transported.

In order to keep patients and responders safe, the ambulances are being disinfected between every call and every patient, regardless of his or her health status. Ultraviolet lanterns are being used to disinfect the inside compartments and all surfaces are being wiped down.

"We're working with our local and state offices of emergency management, the CDC, and FEMA to follow



the most up-to-date guidelines in order to keep everyone safe," said Chief Carolyn Sorge.

The rescue squad is looking for donations of masks and other medical grade protective gear. And of course, monetary donations are always needed. Also, if you are looking to do more to help, please consider volunteering, especially if you already have training. If not, training will be provided.

"We definitely need more people who can assist with answering calls," said President Daniel Sullivan.

As always, the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is proud to serve the people of Scotch Plains and surrounding areas. Let's all do our best to keep ourselves, our neighbors, and our first responders safe.

To contact the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, go to [www.scotchplainsrescuesquad.com](http://www.scotchplainsrescuesquad.com), email us at [scotchplainsrescuesquad@gmail.com](mailto:scotchplainsrescuesquad@gmail.com), or call 908-322-2103.

### 911 vs 211

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CARDIAC ARREST</li> <li>• UNCONSCIOUS</li> <li>• STROKE</li> <li>• SEIZURE</li> <li>• HEART ATTACK</li> <li>• SEVERE BLOOD LOSS</li> <li>• COMPLEX BIRTHS</li> <li>• CRITICAL INJURIES</li> <li>• SHOOTING OR STABBING</li> <li>• DROWNING</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19</li> <li>• IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT COVID-19</li> <li>• FLU SYMPTOMS:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FEVER</li> <li>• BODY ACHES</li> <li>• CHILLS</li> <li>• RUNNY NOSE</li> <li>• SORE THROAT</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|--|---|

\* If you have any of the above symptoms or think you have been exposed to COVID-19, isolate yourself from others and call your Doctor to discuss treatment options.

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# Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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

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

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

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# 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 [unioncountynotes.com](http://unioncountynotes.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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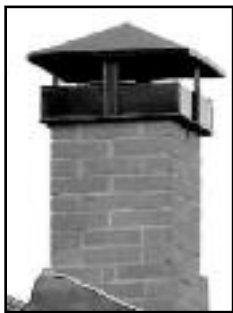
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## A MESSAGE FROM SCOTCH PLAINS MAYOR AL SMITH

Hello to my neighbors and fellow residents of Scotch Plains. I know these are trying times, but hopefully by the time you read this letter in May, we will be past the peak of the Coronavirus impact and looking forward to what I am describing as our great renewal. First and foremost, I want to thank you all, especially our essential workers including our first responders, for the team effort to beat the virus and get us back to some form of normalcy. In the meantime, please continue following the CDC's health rules of staying home unless you absolutely must go out, and practicing social distancing, with a mask where necessary.

As a result of our team effort, the number of residents impacted by the virus, although unacceptable, is still on the low side compared to other towns in the area. At this writing, there have been 187 Scotch Plains residents who have tested positive for the virus, with unfortunately 9 deaths. Please keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers. I have electronic candles in my upstairs window which I light at night to remember those who have died.

I am personally inspired by the generosity and self-service that our residents have displayed. So many of you have gone out of your way to personally help someone affected by the virus and have made donations of food or money or both. I would like to thank my fellow Scotch Plains-Fanwood Rotarians for taking the lead in coordinating matching needs and resources of individuals and groups through the Resource

Central they established at the request of the town.

As per the four-point plan for protecting our local small businesses that I have put forward, please continue to support the local businesses that are open for takeout/curbside pickup. All of our small businesses are in jeopardy, and we need to support these businesses in their time of need, just as they have supported all of us personally over the years. In addition, a Scotch Plains Business Resource Group has been established by concerned citizens to help support our small businesses navigate these rocky times, especially the application processes for State and Federal aid.

Unfortunately, as of this writing our local small businesses have not had much success in qualifying for the first round of the Federal and State Aid. Our Federal and State legislators have been very helpful. They are continually reaching out to me and the township with information or advice. The recently-passed almost \$500 billion Phase II of the CARES act is targeted to small businesses to get the Federal Aid that they badly need.

The property tax due date is set by State Statute and can only be changed by the State Legislature and the Governor. This was debated by the State Legislature but did not move forward. Therefore, property taxes are still due on the normal dates: May 1, August 1, and November 1.

The State has authorized banks to allow up to

three months of mortgage forbearance, but you must negotiate the forbearance with your bank. In any case, taxes are still required to be paid either through the bank escrow account or you personally. In an effort to help our residents, the 2020 municipal budget has a zero-tax increase. Our flat budget and the flat budget of Union County will hopefully help our residents through these trying time. Also, I have been working with other mayors in the 7th Congressional District and Congressman Malinowski to provide towns like ours with support for lost revenue due to the coronavirus crisis. This is critical to the municipality since we must pay the school and county taxes first, leaving the remainder to cover town expenses.

My fellow Town Council members and I realize the great pain and disruption that has been inflicted by this virus, and we are working as a team with all the municipal employees to help all of us get through this crisis. No municipal tax increase this year is just one of the ways we are trying to ease the burden on our residents.

Again, if we have to go out, I may see you around town with masks and gloves on and staying six feet apart. And while you're out, please keep an eye out for the colorful coronavirus ribbons that I and other residents have been placing in front of our homes. They symbolize solidarity, hope, healing, and I've added renewal. It's now time to focus on renewal.

Thank you and stay safe,  
*Mayor Al Smith*



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# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DONATES TO OVERLOOK HOSPITAL IN SUMMIT

Rotary International District 7475 is donating much needed critical care equipment to Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ to help with the COVID 19 Pandemic. They have raised \$34,000 to donate one Critical Care Bed to the ICU.

Overlook Hospital is renovating two additional floors to become ICU units, and is looking for funding to help purchase the equipment. They have ordered 20 Critical Care Beds, model Hillrom Progressa Bed System. The beds can be upgraded in the future and cost \$34,000 each. Website hillrom.com The beds have technology to help patients breath including percussive and vibration therapies. The hospital does not like to transfer patients between beds, because it increases the risk of nonsocomial infections, which means getting an infection in the hospital. Therefore, these beds are designed to be used in other therapeutic modalities. They are designed to be mobile- you can wheel them down the hall to other departments. The useful life of one of these high tech beds is 12 to 15 years. Each bed could potentially save thousands of lives.

The Rotary District 7475 consists of 82 Rotary Clubs representing 2000 Rotarians in 9 counties of northern New Jersey. Rotary is a business networking and service club of successful business men and women who want to give back to their community. There are 1.2 millions Rotarians in 166 countries around the world. Most of the Rotarians in the District donate to the International Foundation, which circulates the funds back for use in our local communities. Past District Governor Dr. D. Michael Hart is the Foundation Chair for the District. He was able to write a grant proposal which was matched by The Rotary International Foundation totaling \$34,000 to purchase one bed.

Rotary Global Grants require an international partner. District 7475 has done many Global Grants, typically 10 grants per year with many clubs and districts around the world. This is one of the first few grants done in the United States in the last 20 years. For this particular grant, the Rotary Club of Berwick, Victoria Australia is our international partner. Last year our New Jersey

District raised \$20,000 to help them with their wildfires which were out of control.

Dr. D. Michael Hart stated "The rest of the world thinks Americans are rich and do not need any help. This program is a good example of how Rotary International can help people right here in a time of crisis."

Dr. Hart recently wrote two other grants totaling \$100,000 to purchase 10 ventilators for the Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth, NJ and The RWJ Barnabas Hospital in Somerset, NJ. Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas is the largest health system in New Jersey with 15 hospitals. Overlook is part of the Atlantic Health System with 5 hospitals. Hospital chains share equipment as needed, or divert patients to open hospital wards as needed, so these donations will help the two largest health systems in New Jersey.

Rotary International is one of the premier charitable institutions in the world. They have been rated 100% for 11 years in a row by Charity Navigator, an organization which rates charities. Since 1985, Rotary has been working to eradicate Polio worldwide. Rotary raises \$50 million per year for the effort, and The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matches Rotary's fundraising efforts at a rate of 2:1. In other words, Gates

contributes \$100 million per year. Rotary works in conjunction with The World Health Organization which can deal with the political issues in each country; Rotarians are the "boots on the ground" actually vaccinating the children; and the CDC and UNICEF help with funding. Polio has no cure and no treatment, but it does have a vaccine. The virus only lives in humans, so once it is eradicated, it will be gone forever. It predominately strikes children under the age of 5 years old and causes paralysis. FDR had polio as a child and was paralyzed for life. He started a charity to fight this disease in 1938. After his death, in 1946, his likeness was put on a dime and the slogan and name "The March of Dimes" was started for the fight against polio. Rotary has eradicated 99.9% of the cases in the entire world since 1985. There were 94 new cases of polio in 2019, mostly in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Only one other disease has been completely eradicated worldwide which is smallpox.

The Fanwood Scotch Plains Rotary Club meetings are held every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. at The Stage House Restaurant, Park Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ. For more information please visit [fsprotary.org](http://fsprotary.org) or on Facebook: Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club.



(above) Rotary International District 7475 Foundation Committee Chairs



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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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# LOCAL CIVIL AIR PATROL CADETS PARTICIPATE IN LEGISLATIVE DAY

*Submitted by Capt Jose G. Vergara, CAP, U.S. Air Force Auxiliary*

Civil Air Patrol (C.A.P.) cadets, Cadet Second Lieutenant (C/2nd Lt) Manali Shah and Cadet Chief Master Sergeant (C/CMSgt) Niyati Shah, both residents of Scotch Plains, from the Captain Bud Jackson Composite Squadron, recently traveled to Washington D.C., for a three-day trip to attend Legislative Day. This is a national event for the C.A.P. program, where each state sends representatives from the various congressional districts to speak on behalf of their squadrons and wing, and request for an increase in funding for C.A.P.'s main missions.

Cadets Manali Shah and Niyati Shah were chosen on behalf of their community, New Jersey's 12th Congressional District, to speak to Congressmen and Congresswomen about their interests, motivations to

join C.A.P., future aspirations, and funding matters. Cadets explained how approximately 1,600 C.A.P. volunteer members across New Jersey actively participate in activities including Aerospace Education, Cybersecurity, Military Drone programs, Search and Rescue, and Disaster Relief and Emergency Services Missions. As an organization, we support the NJ Office of Emergency Management, FEMA and all branches of the military and government. Nationally, with 66,000 C.A.P. volunteers, C.A.P. has 560 aircraft, hundreds of drones, 900 ground team vehicles, thousands of radios of back-up communications- all to support missions for America and to create the dynamic aerospace and emergency response leaders of tomorrow.

The cadets were able to speak with other Congressmen, Congresswomen, and their staff including Mr. Andrew Kim, Mr. Joshua Gottheimer, Mr. Donald Norcross, Mr. Jefferson Van Drew, Mr. Christopher Smith, among others. In addition, they received a wonderful opportunity to converse with Senator Corey Booker's staff. Cadets also got to meet the Civil Air Patrol National Commander, Major General Mark E. Smith, who made a special appearance at the Legislative Day conference.

It is impossible to visit the nation's capital and not do some sightseeing! In addition to the US Senate Building and the Capitol, Cadets Manali Shah, Niyati Shah and their fellow New Jersey representatives visited the renowned Library of Congress, where they admired the beautiful architecture and intricate artwork. They also visited the United States Air Force Memorial in Arlington, VA, the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and the Washington Monument.

The Civil Air Patrol (C.A.P.) Cadet Program is open to all Middle School and High School students from ages 12 to 18. For more information about the C.A.P., please contact Captain Jose Vergara at [jose.vergara@njwg.cap.gov](mailto:jose.vergara@njwg.cap.gov) or visit the C.A.P. webpage at [gocivilairpatrol.com](http://gocivilairpatrol.com).



*(above, front) Cadet Second Lieutenant Manali Shah and Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Niyati Shah is eleventh with cadets with the New Jersey Civil Air Patrol delegation.*

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# ROTARY CLUB FIGHTS CORONAVIRUS THROUGH COMMUNITY OUTREACH

*Submitted by Maria LaMorte-Wright*

The Rotary motto is “Service Above Self”. When the Coronavirus pandemic began to impact local communities, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club put these words into action to provide service to those in need. They identified a three-tier plan to help the community: 1) SPF Resource Central- centralized information about local resources; 2) Fabric Masks and; 3) GoFundMe for the purchase of P100 masks for Overlook and meals for healthcare providers.

The first thing they did was establish SPF Resource Central, for people needing information about resources during the Coronavirus pandemic. Led by Deanna Dell Bene, they worked with the Borough of Fanwood and Township of Scotch Plains to become a key point of contact, and immediately created a list of resources (restaurants, food pantries, shopping assistance, prescription pickup, etc). When someone requests assistance, they’ll be matched with, and referred to, the best resource.

Individuals and families who need assistance during this pandemic are asked to visit the Rotary website at [fsprotary.org](http://fsprotary.org) and fill out the Assistance Request Form with as much information as possible. A member of the FSP Rotary Club will reach out to review the request and will then use the information to identify the appropriate resources. If preferred, anyone can simply call the SPF Resource Central hotline to request assistance: 908-312-0687. So far, queries have been received for donations of fabric masks; request from Overlook nurses for phone chargers, extension cords, hair ties; request for assistance with food donations for IHM food pantry. The SPF Resource Central team worked with the YMCA in Scotch Plains, where bins were set up for collection and distribution of needed items.

At the same time, several members of the Rotary Club learned about the need for fabric masks and individually began sewing. They teamed up under the guidance of Carmela Resnick and formed a sewing group to provide masks for healthcare providers, the elderly and

anyone at-risk. The group worked for days when they received a large request for 200 masks for a local home healthcare provider. They’ve since delivered masks to Ashbrook nursing home, Trinitas (children’s masks), El Centro, SP Senior housing, Brandywine Senior Living, SP Post Office, Fanwood Post Office, Overlook Hospital nurses (for home use), Fanwood Presbyterian, the YMCA, local doctors’ offices, as well as individual requests from people at-risk. For information about masks, contact the SPF Resource Central hotline at 908-312-0687.

Finally, the FSP Rotary Club learned that Overlook wanted to acquire approximately 500-600 P100 filtering masks at a cost of about \$10,000. They created a GoFundMe to raise funds for these masks as well as meals for healthcare workers and first responders in Fanwood and Scotch Plains. Gift Cards will be purchased from local restaurants and delivered to healthcare workers and first responders who are

nominated by the community. If you’d like to support the fundraiser, go to [fsprotary.org](http://fsprotary.org) and click the Donate button below the Coronavirus information. To nominate a someone to receive a restaurant gift card, simply call the SPF Resource Central hotline at 908-312-0687 to provide information (who you’re nominating, contact info, why you are nominating them).

In addition to the above initiatives, the Rotary Club has donated \$1,000 toward the P100 masks for Overlook Hospital, \$1,000 to El Centro, \$1,000 to Boxes of Hope, \$500 to the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, and \$500 to the Fanwood Rescue Squad. Other contributions are in progress, as they work to assist those with food insecurity. President Wayne Zuhl has been reporting progress during weekly Zoom meetings with club members. During one of the meetings, he commented, “I have never been more proud to be a Rotarian and a member of the greatest Rotary Club in the Universe!”



*(above) Deanna Dell Bene takes a call from someone calling in to SPF Resource Central. Deanna leads this committee.*



*(above) Carmela Resnick collects fabric masks left on her porch by Rotarians on the sewing team. The masks are being made for healthcare providers, and those in need.*



*(above) Over 200 masks which were recently donated to a home healthcare provider.*

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**FSP Rotary Coronavirus Fundraiser**

Coronavirus Support for Fanwood & Scotch Plains Healthcare Workers and First Responders

Fanwood and Scotch Plains Unite Against Coronavirus

PPE Masks for Overlook Hospital

FSP Rotary is organizing this fundraiser on behalf of Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Foundation. @ Donations are 100% tax deductible.

*(above) The Rotary Club’s GoFundMe page*

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND GIRL SCOUTS JOINED FOR “VOTER GIRL”

On March 7, 2020 the League of Women Voters (LWV) and Girl Scouts worked together to present Voter Girl. Four of these events were held at the same time in four different New Jersey locations including Plainfield, Woodland Park, Brick Township and Pitman NJ.

Over 100 League of Women Volunteers from New Jersey and 50 elected officials participated as well. Numerous volunteers from the Girl Scouts and troop leaders rounded out the group that helped to bring this event alive for the over 500 Girl Scouts who participated.

This collaborative program between the LWV and the Girl Scouts provided a one-day class for Girl Scouts of all levels to earn citizenship badges through learning about civic engagement and advocacy. League of Women volunteer workshop leaders and a variety of elected officials who

volunteered to participate empowered Girl Scouts to act on their right to vote, engage in civil debate and learn to be counted in the 2020 census.

An introduction piece to the event was provided, questions were asked of a variety of elected officials who volunteered to appear for the event.

At the Plainfield location, elected officials included: Joanne Rajoppi, Union County Clerk; Nancy Munoz, New Jersey General Assembly District 21; Mayor Colleen M. Mahr, Mayor of Fanwood; Ashley Davis, Plainfield Councilwoman; Joylette Mills, Plainfield Councilwoman; April Burke, Dunellen Councilwoman; Christine Faustini, South Plainfield Councilwoman; Keiona R. Miller, North Plainfield Councilwoman; Aimee Corzo, North Plainfield Councilwoman; Elizabeth

Stamler, Scotch Plains Councilwoman; Lynn Anderson-Person, Plainfield Board of ED; Catherine Gural, Township Committeewoman Montgomery Township; Veronica Taylor, Superintendent of the Division Parks & Recreation; and Lynda Carter, New Jersey General Assembly District 22.

Each age level then attended a workshop where the Girl Scouts completed a Citizenship badge including Behind the Ballot, Celebrating Community, Finding Common Ground and Inside Government.

At the Plainfield location, thanks to the Union County Board of Elections, the Girl Scouts cast ballots on the actual voting machines used in Union County. The girls voted (depending on their level) on issues dealing with the most important constitutional amendment, how to increase participation on election day, the best way to arrive at a decision, and the most important branch of government. All groups voted on whether to ban single use plastic bags in grocery stores.

A variety of community service groups also set up and distributed information for general knowledge including the US Census Bureau, local historical groups and the local Board of Health.

This was a wonderful opportunity for girls and women of all ages to see women who are actively engaged in making democracy work. This coincided with the 100th Anniversary of both the League of Women Voters and the passage of the 19th Amendment.



(above) Girls Scouts earned badges and learned about civic engagement and advocacy

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## MACMILLAN NAMED NOTRE DAME GOLDWATER SCHOLAR

University of Notre Dame student Theodore MacMillan of Scotch Plains has been named a Goldwater Scholar for the 2020-2021 academic year, in addition to classmates Leah Harmon and Alex Kokot. This is the most Goldwater Scholars named at the University in a single year.

MacMillan, of Scotch Plains, New Jersey, is a mechanical engineering major with a minor in philosophy, science and mathematics.

In applying for the scholarship, Harmon, Kokot and MacMillan worked closely with CUSE, which promotes the intellectual development of Notre Dame undergraduates through scholarly engagement, research, creative endeavors and the pursuit of fellowships.

"The success of these three juniors is a testament to their dedication to undergraduate research and to the faculty who have mentored them along the way," said Jenny Smith, undergraduate research advisor with CUSE. "It also attests to the high level of talent in the STEM fields that Notre Dame attracts at the undergraduate level."

Malgorzata Dobrowolska-Furdyna, the Rev. John Cardinal O'Hara, C.S.C., Professor of Physics and associate dean for undergraduate students in the College of Science at Notre Dame, is the campus representative for the Goldwater.

Named for former U.S. Sen. Barry Goldwater, the Goldwater Scholarship encourages outstanding sophomores and juniors to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences and/or engineering. It covers tuition, fees, books and room and board up to \$7,500 per year for one or two years.



(above) Scotch Plain's Theodore MacMillan, along with Leah Harmon and Alex Kokot, was named a University of Notre Dame Goldwater Scholar.

Photo by University of Notre Dame



## HOW TO SUCCEED DOING-WHAT-YOU-LOVE

*A guide to best practices in starting and growing your business*

Featured on Renna Media's YouTube Chanel: 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 multi-media 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 cultivated 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>



(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 Szweczek.

# 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 though I would get a job if it didn't work out. Its 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 your 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




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## ALL AGES OF GEEK SHOW LINEUP



**LORE BEHIND:**

The Lore Behind series are a roster of sub-category shows focusing on diving into the lore and story of any geek culture show, literature media, game or movie.

**THE LYRIC ROOM:**

Jumping into geek culture music and humanizing each song.

**THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE:**

Geeky conversations about all sections of geek culture.

**THE MOUSE POTATOES:**

Have fun with all kinds of videos here from Try Not to Laugh Challenges, to extreme team challenges.

**THE GEEK GAME ROOM:**

These live Let's Plays include Nintendo, PS4 and PC gameplays. An interactive way to experience a game with a geeky community.

**ON THE ROAD WITH ALL AGES OF GEEK:**

AAOG Team travels around and covers local conventions covering all things anime, gaming and geeky goodness.

**TIPS WITH TAT:**

Need a little pep talk or reminder that you are awesome and that's it's okay to feel the way you do about your mental health? Well Tips with Tat covers all of that.

**SQUAD TV:**

Reviewing the strangest videos on the internet.

**THE GEEK JAM SURGERY:**

We take a scalpel to all your favorite geek tunes, analyzing the tools, techniques and theory that keep the best geek jams on your playlist.

**THE GEEKONING PODCAST:**

Unfiltered podcast related to anime, video games, geeky topics, fandoms and shenanigans.

**DICE SESH:**

A Dungeons and Dragons interactive podcast where the host teaches you how to play DnD and tells some DnD stories.

**TAT & KAT SHOW:**

Sisters Kat and Tat discuss anime, gaming, passions and humanize a new definition of what it means to be sisters.

**INDIE DEEP DIVE PODCAST:**

An in-depth discussion with indie devs, artists, voice actors and others breaking through within the video game industry.

**AAOG GO!:**

All Ages of Geek has tons of content that we want you to be able to enjoy on the go and in your own time too.

**THAT ACNE B!TCH:**

Katya Stec is here to teach you about some tips and tricks on how to survive your acne, facial scars and anything that may make you feel insecure on That Acne B!tch Podcast.

**POP FILTER PODCAST:**

Pop Filter is all about your geeky news, reviews and interviews you can use hosted by voice actor Erik Scott Kimerer and Katya Stec.

**ALL AGES OF FAITH**

Exploring the Catholic faith and religion in geek culture.

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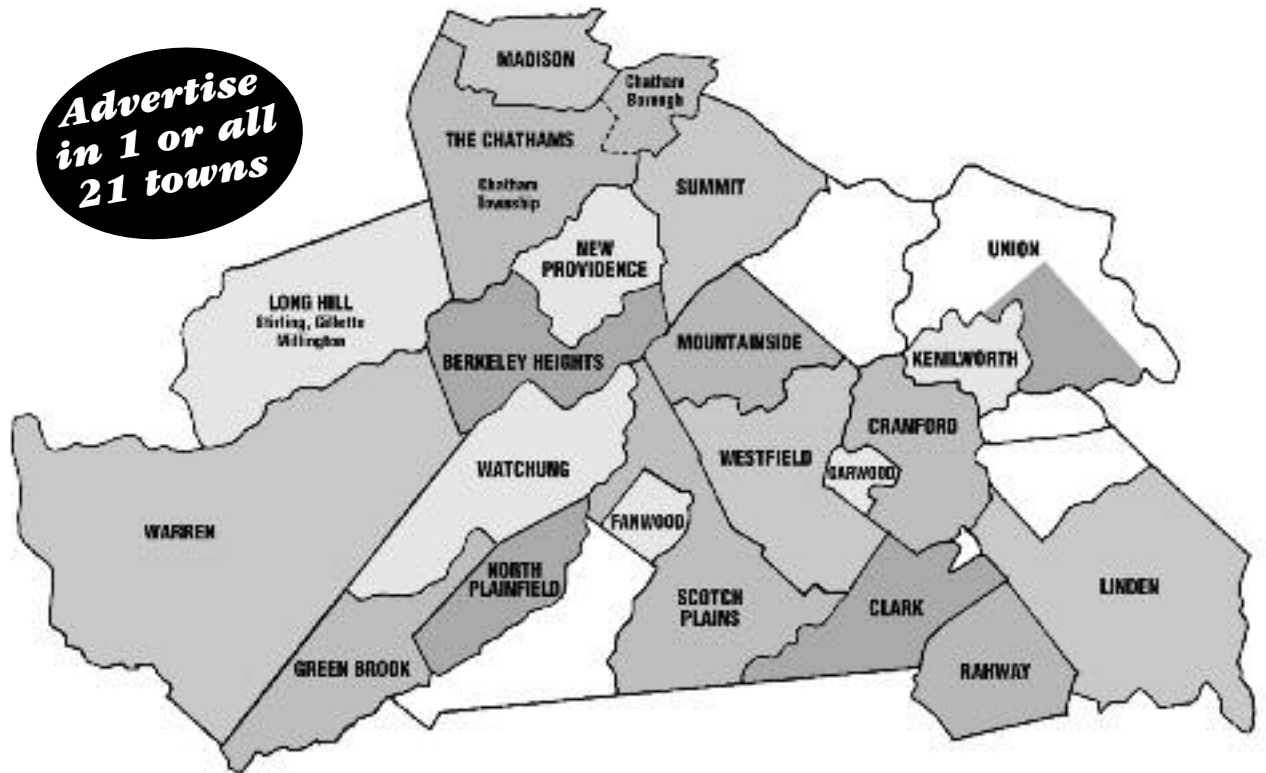
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# LATEST “MIND YOUR OWN LOCAL BUSINESS” SHOWS

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 an 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.

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[AllAgesofGeek.com](http://AllAgesofGeek.com)  
 or find and like us on FaceBook.com



## 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:**

- Up to 500 words
- Up to 10 key words
- Choose start and end date
- Sharable web page
- Each ad includes a unique email address keeping your address private
- Upload up to five images, up to 500KB each
- Links to YouTube videos and other websites
- Choose from dozens of search classifications.
- Add Google Maps link

Live Tracking!

Each ad has a live view counter showing daily and total visits.



### INCREASED VISIBILITY.

We help people find your ad by cross-posting to several social media sites and by indexing in search engines. [facebook.com/NJLocalinfo](http://facebook.com/NJLocalinfo) • [facebook.com/RennaMedia](http://facebook.com/RennaMedia)

## WEBSITE / SEO SERVICES

- Website Audit/Analysis and recommendation plan: \$250
- Website creation/update: \$2,400 (Cost for average website: 12 pages, contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design)
- Website Hosting: \$300 per year  
Includes website hosting, software updates, monthly website content updates
- SEO Services - average cost \$1,000 - \$2,000 per month  
Custom tailored solutions: Google Ranking, Local SEO, Social Marketing
- Blast your online ad or press release to a targeted market \$100
- National Press Release Distribution to 300 to 500 news outlets.  
Budget choice from \$300 to \$500.

**CONTACT JOE FOR DETAILS 908-447-1295**

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

**Visit [RennaMedia.com](http://RennaMedia.com) or [NJLocalInfo.com](http://NJLocalInfo.com)**

# JERSEY LANDSCAPE & GARDEN SUPPLY

Hours:

Monday - Saturday: 7:30 am - 5 pm

Sundays: 8:30 am - 3 pm

**908-688-8333**

**528 N. Michigan Ave. Kenilworth, NJ**

We accommodate the trade as well as the do-it-yourselfers! We are always ready to assist.

**FREE Same Day Delivery**  
5-Yards or more

## LAWN & GARDEN



Grass - Seed  
Fertilizers  
Peat Moss



Polymeric Sand  
Paver Sealer  
Paver Cleaner

## HARDSCAPE

- Cement
- Concrete Block
- Belgium Block
- Curbing
- Limestone Treads
- Diamond Blades

## TOOLS

- Mason Tools
- Shovels
- Rakes

## DRAINAGE

- Catch Basins
- Pipe

**Bon Tool Co.**

## SOIL

Prices per yard

Black Topsoil .....\$36

## MULCH

Black Dyed.....\$30  
Brown Dyed.....\$30  
Red Dyed.....\$32  
Hardwood.....\$24

## QUARRY BASE MATERIALS

Concrete Sand.....\$50  
3/4 Clean Stone.....\$40  
Stone Dust.....\$34  
QP .....\$36

## DECORATIVE STONE

3/8 Red Stone .....\$74  
3/4 Red Stone .....\$70  
3/4 Goose Egg .....\$94  
1 1/2-3 Goose Egg.....\$98  
3/4 Arctic White.....\$94  
3/8 Riverbed / Pea Gravel.....\$60  
1 Riverbed .....\$68  
1 1/2-3 Riverbed.....\$76

Prices subject to change without notice.



**Largest Display of Pavers in Union County**

Waterfalls • Fireplaces • Fire Pits • Walls • Walkways • Patios • Curbs