

Summit NJ Times

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FIRST AID SQUAD VOLUNTEERS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Life for nearly all of us has changed quite a bit in the past 2 months. And that's certainly true at the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad. While many business and services are reduced or closed, the Squad volunteers are still answering calls for help; 156 of them in March.

The COVID-19 crisis has changed the way we answer calls and some of the equipment we use, but no call goes unanswered. While a few members have stepped back from active duty to protect family members with health issues, several of our college members have returned home and helped to fill our ranks.

Like most first responder and healthcare organizations, obtaining the personnel protective equipment or "PPE" has become a challenge. "After seeing how quickly we were using our supply of disposable gowns, we obtained heavier duty reusable protective suits and issued one to each active member", said Squad Chief Kari Phair. Volunteers assembled a decontamination booth in the ambulance bay for cleaning after a call. We have also been fortunate to receive several donations from local businesses and residents that included N95 respirators, surgical masks and face shields. Two area high schools are among those using 3D printers to manufacture face shield bodies to which a clear file is attached. When obtaining the disinfection products used in the ambulances became difficult, and the Squad obtained a UV sanitization device; the same technology used by many hospitals including Overlook. According to Squad President Bob Flanagan, "The safety of our members and patients remains our #1 priority."

A variety of local restaurants and good neighbors have also been sending food to the Squad. Since the duration for a typical medical call is often much longer these days resulting in missed meals that's been helpful. "Our volunteers truly appreciate the show of support from the community", commented Flanagan.

While the number of calls has risen only slightly, the locations have changed. With people staying home more, the Squad is seeing fewer car accidents and emergencies at places of business,



(above) Two of Summit's ambulances at Overlook Medical Center on April 24, 2020. Volunteers answered 12 emergency calls that day. The all-volunteer First Aid Squad, responds to emergency calls 24/7, is entirely funded through private donations and does not bill for service. The Squad is always looking for new volunteers to join its ranks. All needed training, uniforms and equipment is provided. For information on becoming a volunteer, or donating to the squad please call 908-277-9479, or visit their web site at: summitems.org.

while calls to a patient's home have increased substantially.

On April 7, the Summit First Aid Squad led an effort to thank their local heroes: health care providers at Overlook Medical Center. 36 different agencies joined the Summit Squad in an appreciation parade past Overlook. Summit Squad members participated in a similar effort the following week for St Barnabas Medical Center.

Crew Chief John Staunton, who also serves as Summit's Board of Health President believes we may have passed the peak in COVID cases. He stated recently "We saw a good sign this afternoon when we had 3 ambulances respond to simultaneous calls and none were COVID related."

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Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email Editor@rennamedia.com

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A MESSAGE FROM SUMMIT MAYOR RADEST

Without a doubt, we are experiencing the biggest challenge of our generation. For many, our lives have been altered dramatically and we struggle watching loved ones suffer with the COVID-19 virus, often from long distances, with some losing the fight. We are in this together, but we are often alone. Each day Governor Murphy shares chilling updates about the number of positive coronavirus cases and, tragically, the number of New Jerseyans who have died. Social distancing is effective in blunting the full force of COVID-19, but the economic toll so far is enormous. I understand and can relate to how anxious we all are to get back to our normal lives, back to work and school, and for businesses to reopen. Yet, any plan to reopen must be implemented in a manner that preserves public safety and inspires confidence. If we open prematurely, our community could be propelled back into crisis mode and further push our health systems past capacity. None of us want the strict social distancing to be extended and have our economy deepen into a prolonged recession. Now is not the time to reduce our vigilance; I believe we must stay the course for a while longer.

In good and challenging times, Summit residents and business owners have always joined together to assist one another. This crisis is no different. In the midst of the devastating COVID-19 coronavirus, friends and neighbors are working together to keep our community going and bring relief to those who need it. A few examples include the Other Fellow First Foundation that is raising funds for SAGE Eldercare, the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad and three food pantries, including GRACE, Loaves and Fishes and SHIP. Additionally many residents have donated nearly \$300,000 to the Sustain Summit Fund that will provide grants to small business owners within the Summit city limits. FLAG, Front Line Appreciation Group, raises funds to purchase food from Summit



(above) Mayor Nora Radest

restaurants and food purveyors and delivers the food to workers at Overlook Medical Center. Some initiatives do not involve fundraising, but rather individual efforts; SHIELD is a group of over 100 volunteers that shop for groceries and prescriptions and deliver them to our elderly and infirm residents. There are also a large group of volunteers sew cloth masks. To learn more about all of these efforts please go to www.cityofsummit.org/coronavirus.

I am very proud to be the Mayor of Summit and I am incredibly grateful for the hard work and dedication of every council member, all city employees and first responders who are working tirelessly to serve the ongoing needs of our community. I know we will get through this, be stronger than ever and better prepared for any future crisis.

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SUSTAIN SUMMIT FUND TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY GRANTS TO LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES

Submitted by Amy Cairns

In response to economic challenges facing local small businesses in Summit that are impacted by the COVID-19 Coronavirus outbreak, Mayor Nora Radest in partnership with The Summit Foundation and Summit Downtown Inc. (SDI) has established the Sustain Summit Fund, an emergency assistance grant program.

The fund will provide grants to small businesses adversely impacted by COVID-19 containment measures through donations from individuals and area corporations. All contributions are tax deductible and can be made by accessing a GoFundMe link.

"Our small business owners are facing an unprecedented economic challenge," explains Mayor Radest. "While I fully support how

important the current restrictions on social gathering and commerce are, my heart breaks for our local businesses that are severely and disproportionately affected. I hope that you will support the Sustain Summit Fund and help our local small businesses to weather this storm."

Independent business owners with a physical retail address in Summit that have been negatively impacted by the restrictions placed on commerce starting in March 2020 are invited to apply. Applications will be reviewed by a committee made up of residents and representatives from Summit Downtown Inc. and The Summit Foundation. Applications will be evaluated promptly to ensure relief funds are distributed as quickly as possible.

To make a tax-deductible contribution, go to the Sustain Summit Fund's GoFundMe page.

The Summit Foundation fosters philanthropy by identifying local needs and offering donors flexible ways to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors. Last year, The Summit Foundation granted nearly \$600,000 to 38 local nonprofit agencies.

Summit Downtown Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that represents all retailers and businesses in the Central Retail Business District to encourage the development and growth of business in the downtown.



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JUNIOR LEAGUE AWARDS OVER \$50,000 IN GRANTS TO COMMUNITY

Submitted by Dana Felmet

The Junior League of Summit is pleased to announce that it has granted more than \$50,000 to local community partners and agencies. Due to the suspension of JLS membership meetings and gatherings and a focus on social distancing, the funds were mailed to the organizations in March. In light of recent events, grant recipients have been given permission by the Board of Directors to apply the funds as necessary in response to assist with the COVID-19 crisis. "Year after year, the Junior League of Summit continues to give back to our community by providing financial and member support of local non profits," says Erika Melchiorre, JLS President. "We are proud to grant over \$50,000 to these deserving non profits that align with our focus areas and are making our community a better place for all."

THE 2020 GRANT RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:

- Bridges (supplying qualifying Summit students with backpacks & school supplies for the 19-2020 school year)
- Central Presbyterian Church (funding for a new refrigerator providing food storage for Family Promise and GRACE);
- Christ Church, Summit (funding to supplement GRACE efforts for food insecure citizens)
- College of Saint Elizabeth (funding will cover purchased and recovered food and packaging for student-run food recovery program and student pantry)
- Cornerstone School (funding cooking equipment and classes; shared eating experiences in the classroom)
- Dress for Success (supporting ME (My Essentials) bags containing personal hygiene, toiletry items, and gas cards)
- Family Promise (funding "Healthy Kitchen Initiatives" providing food, utensils and gift cards to families graduating from shelter program and moving into new homes)
- Good Grief (supporting food and volunteer training for families attending Nights of Support, grief counseling support groups)
- Keys 2 Success (helping to build upon existing program providing musical co-learning programs to under-privileged children in the community)
- Overlook Foundation (providing funding for insulin, medications, healthy food for low income prenatal women and children)
- Reeves-Reed Arboretum (supporting educational sustainability programming through camps, and educational initiatives);
- SAGE Eldercare (providing funding for Meals on Wheels program)
- St. Joseph's Social Service Center (funding food insecurity program for the Greater Elizabeth area)
- Summit Area YMCA (supporting career and college prep and counseling plus corporate mentoring as part of the Achievers Program servicing community's underserved)
- The Summit Department of Community Programs (funding for TRYcan special needs recreation programs: build a sensory room in the new Summit rec center, including climbing wall, chairs, ball pit, and more)
- The Summit Park Line Foundation (supporting a direct and safe option connecting Summit communities: bike riding lessons for members of the community; safety on the path)
- Summit Soccer Club (supporting program which provides healthy activity to GRACE community and additional children)
- The Summit Speech School (providing fresh, healthy snacks for students and water filters for last year's refrigerator donation)
- The Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad (funding a state-mandated technological upgrade: one new laptop to be docked in a rig)
- The Connection (supporting Pathways program that provides services for women undergoing cancer treatments).

The Junior League of Summit is a nonprofit, charitable and educational organization of women who are committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. For more information about the Junior League of Summit, please visit the website at www.jlsummit.org or contact the office at 908-273-7349.

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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.

To find your local Rotary Club, or for more information visit njroastry.org.



(above) Rotary International District 7475 Foundation Committee Chairs



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(above) Summit Police Chief Robert Weck

Photo by Peter Wallburg Studios, Summit, NJ

STATEMENT OF GRATITUDE FROM POLICE CHIEF ROBERT WECK

Following is a statement from Summit Police Chief Robert Weck following the April 1, 2020 announcement that he had tested positive for the COVID-19 coronavirus:

"I would like to thank the entire Summit community for its expressions of support and concern for me during my recovery from the COVID-19 coronavirus. Hearing from so many of you certainly helped me get through this extremely difficult time, and I am happy to say that I am on my way to a full recovery. Once

again, the Summit community demonstrates why it is an amazing place to live and work.

I also want to thank the Summit Police Department, all the first responders and essential staff for their dedication and professionalism throughout these turbulent times.

I encourage everyone to stay at home and practice social distancing. Working together by staying apart, we will control the spread of this virus. It is definitely a serious matter. Please stay safe and be well."

SPD ENFORCING SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES

The Summit Police Department is taking a lead role in enforcing social distancing guidelines that health officials describe as critical to containing the COVID-19 Coronavirus by dispersing small groups of people on city streets and in public spaces. These enforcement measures are in response to police observation of a lack of compliance by citizens to restrictions issued by the State of New Jersey.

"People are not being discouraged from getting out for a breath of fresh air by themselves, as a couple or with their family," explains Summit Police Chief Robert Weck. "If we see people in groups or participating in activities like team sports or outdoor gatherings, we are going to ask them to disperse, and if they do not comply, summons may be issued."

Summit Mayor Nora Radest is considering closing public parks if people do not comply with State of New Jersey density and activity guidelines.

"We have an opportunity to control the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus in our community, and I will do everything possible to reduce the impact on our already over-burdened health care system," reports Mayor

Radest. "This is a time to think beyond what you may want to do and focus on how your actions will impact us all. Please do your part by staying home if you are not an essential worker, and follow social distancing protocols."

In a March 27, 2020 news release, State of New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal stated: "Staying home and maintaining social distance is not just good advice to stay healthy, it is the law. Make no mistake, we will do what it takes to keep our residents and police officers safe, and that means we will not hesitate to file criminal charges against those who violate the emergency orders."

Additional information on the COVID-19 Coronavirus is available on the city website www.cityofsummit.org/coronavirus.

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ADJUSTING TO COVID-19

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2. The goal of our office remaining open is to keep our patients safe, out of danger and out of Emergency Rooms. This refers to people with emergencies such as injuries, wound care, infections and our regular at-risk patients with conditions such as diabetes and severe circulatory/vascular issues.
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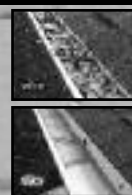
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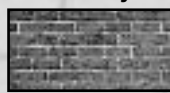
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COUNTY RESIDENTS JOIN LITERACY NEW JERSEY'S TUTOR PROGRAM

Submitted by Nancy Lama

Literacy New Jersey welcomes ten new volunteer tutors from Union County who have joined the ranks as English as a Second Language tutors after completing a 15-hour training course. The new trainees include Leah Brown, Joan Craig, Carolyn Daurio, Tom Ganley, Tom Kaercher, Sherry Krakauer, Laura Lesniak, Ken Mirsky, Wilneris Santana and Teresa Tejada-Melo. The training prepares tutors to work with adults who struggle with reading, writing and speaking English. Literacy New Jersey tutors work in libraries, schools and church centers throughout Union County helping adults improve

their skills in order to find better jobs, help their children in school, and become more involved in the community.

Several of the new trainees got right to work and are already teaching at locations such as the Elizabeth Public Library and Summit High School, where Literacy New Jersey has thriving ESL programs. These programs serve the growing immigrant population in Union County. Part of the recent Literacy New Jersey training included class observations at these locations where the new tutors had the opportunity to meet students and observe experienced tutors in action.

According to one trainee, "The tutor training

program is very well put together. The trainers are amazing! I am confident about all I have learned and I am both excited and nervous to meet my students."

Literacy New Jersey runs tutor training twice a year, in January and September. The training provides a practical, hands on approach to working with adults, and includes ideas for materials and activities as well as strategies for lesson planning. Previous teaching experience is not required. For more information on training and other opportunities at Literacy New Jersey, please call 908-486-1777 or email bbagger@literacynj.org.



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 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 or call 908-527-4787.



(above) Ten new volunteer tutors from Union County have completed their training and joined Literacy New Jersey as English as a Second Language tutors.

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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. Interested candidates with specific questions can also send an email to 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 to work towards."

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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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.



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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 mainstream. 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/

Email-id: 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 Szewczuk.

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CARING CONTACT CONTINUES TO ANSWER CALLS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

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. 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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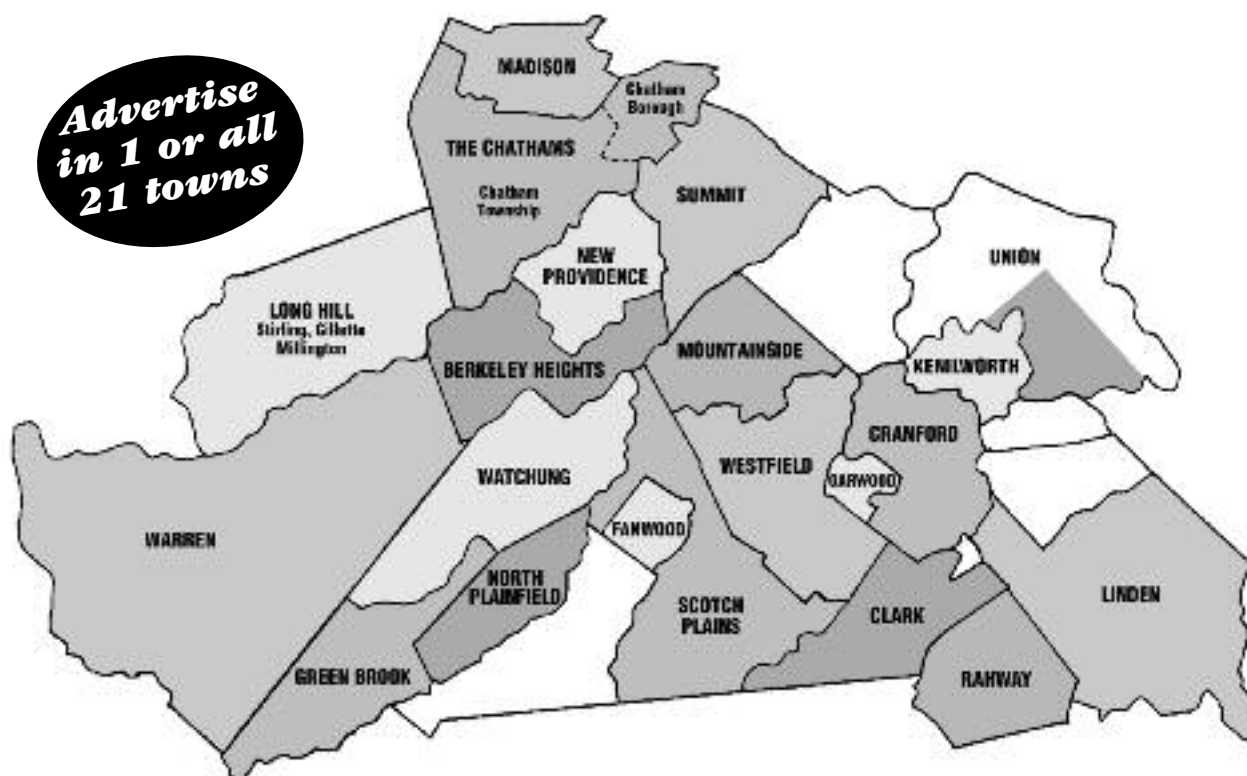
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on Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network on YouTube



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:

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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

Visit: RennaMedia.com

NJlocalinfo.com

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or find and like us on [FaceBook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

**RENNA
MEDIA
.COM**

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

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

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

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 • 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

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