

# WARREN MONTHLY<sub>NJ</sub>

WARREN'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## SCHOOLS IMPLEMENT FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTION DAY (FID) TRIPS

Flexible Instruction has created many obstacles for teachers throughout the country to be able to engage with their students in real-time. Warren Township Schools has developed a process to support their educators with professional development specifically related to the use of technology and video so that lessons can be modified, individualized and appealing to students.

The virtual field trips provide students a unique experience to learn about a high-interest topic and submit a creative product while providing staff opportunities to participate in professional learning to refine their distance learning skills.

The lesson for each grade level follows the same format: listen to a story/chapter read aloud, take a virtual tour, respond to questions on a Google form, build or create something related to the topic and then share the creation. There are also extension activities for students who might be interested in additional work. Many of these projects are created to encourage students to shut down their Chromebook for a period of time to build or create a project specific to their FID Trip.

“Our goal was to provide instruction and activities in an easy to access platform that required very little interaction from the classroom teacher one day per week to enable all Instructional staff to participate in professional development,” stated Cassidy.

The first two FID Trips have been very successful. Students have traveled to the International Space Station as well as Under the Sea to learn about Coral reefs. The overall reaction to FID Trips from the students has been positive. According to a middle school grade 7 student, “I think that this field trip was amazing and I am really looking forward to the next one.”

Each Wednesday while students are participating in their FID Trip, all Instructional Staff members have engaged in virtual staff meetings as well as

*(continued on page 2)*



*(above) Dean Vieira, grade 7 student from Warren Middle School created an Under the Sea scene!*



*(above) Izzy Parry grade 3 Mt. Horeb student is displaying her “Jersey Strong” rocket ship!*



*(above) Elisa Dos Santos, grade 1 from Woodland School is holding her Under the Sea masterpiece!*



*(above) Sophia Morales, grade 1 from Angelo L. Tomaso is showing off her rocket ship!*



*(above) Lorenzo Gramaglia grade 2 from Central School created an Under the Sea masterpiece with Legos.*

Photos by Warren Township School parents



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# WARREN MONTHLY

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## F.I.D. TRIPS (continued from page 1)

professional development sessions led by Mr. William Kimmick, Director of Curriculum. Ms. Stacey Modugno, Supervisor of Curriculum, Mrs. Jessica Nathan and Mrs. Kristen Stoyanov, Instructional Specialists as well as Mrs. Michelle Zgombic and Mrs. Suzanne Wisher, Technology teachers.

In a video shared with the district on April 3, Dr. Matthew Mingle, Superintendent of Schools, introduced a model which he has titled The Distance Learning Continuum. Level 1.0 entailed issuing assignments in text format, level 2.0 introduced short videos where students were able to view a video from their teacher to begin their day. Staff is currently working on level 3.0 which includes mini-lesson videos with clear instructional objectives and directions for a student response or activity.

On April 17, Mingle provided an update on new key information and the direction the district

is heading on The Distance Learning Continuum. Additionally, Mingle reminded the school community to be mindful and flexible in terms of access to devices and the students' working environments as well as the rigorous training that the Instructional Staff are receiving. The goal is to provide students with meaningful work while connecting them to topics of their particular interest.

"We are going to work extremely hard every day to do right by our kids to the greatest extent possible. We will get a lot of things right and we will get things wrong, as well. The best way for you to share that information with us about how you think we are doing or ideas that you are learning from other school districts is to fill out the weekly survey each Friday. We take those results very seriously and we use that to identify our priorities for the next week."

(Mingle, 2020, 17.07)

## WARREN TOWNSHIP PROUDLY FLIES NEW BANNERS IN TOWN CENTER

The Warren Township Committee has approved the installation of new banners to beautify the Town Center.

Mayor Marion stated, "At times like this, we need to surround ourselves with positive reminders and actions daily. I hope that these beautiful banners will bring a smile to all who see them during our battle with this

virus.

The Township Committee extends their appreciation to the Public Works Department for the banner installation.

Deputy Mayor Lazo stated, "The images on the banners were selected to promote pride in our Country and our Community at this difficult time."



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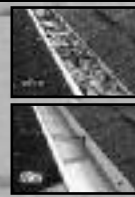
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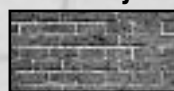
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## TRINITAS NURSING SCHOOL HOLDS GRADUATION CEREMONY

One hundred and nine students received their nursing diplomas at the Trinitas School of Nursing 161st Convocation Ceremony held recently at St. Michael's Church in Cranford. Including Joyce D. D'Annunzio of Warren.

Surrounded by family, friends, and staff that supported their efforts every step of the way, 99 women and 10 men proudly accepted their pins and became eligible to sit for the registered nurse licensing exam.

"The Trinitas School of Nursing is so proud of the 109 graduates- the first graduating class of the new decade, the Class of January 2020," said Dr. Rose Santee, Dean of the Trinitas School of Nursing, a collaborative nursing program with Union County College. "The graduates receive a diploma in nursing from Trinitas School of Nursing that will authorize them to sit for the RN licensing exam and Union County College awards the graduates with the Associate in

Science degree. Their determination and hard work has paid off. It's exciting for the administration, faculty, staff members, and their families when our students graduate. We will miss them, but more, we are full of the satisfaction that we have guided yet another group of capable nurses who are now ready to join the nursing workforce."

Trinitas School of Nursing, operated jointly by Trinitas Regional Medical Center and Union County College, currently holds full accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), and the New Jersey State Board of Nursing. The National League for Nursing has awarded the School of Nursing a third designation as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education status for the years 2015 - 2020 for Creating Environments that Enhance Student Learning and Professional Development. The School also holds a 20-year,

40-class national licensing examination (NCLEX) passage rate of 86.30% on first writing.

### ABOUT TRINITAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER:

Trinitas Regional Medical Center (TRMC), a major center for comprehensive health services for those who live and work in Central New Jersey, is a Catholic teaching medical center sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in partnership with Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation. With 12 Centers of Excellence across the continuum of care, Trinitas has distinguished itself in cardiology, cancer care, behavioral health, renal care, nursing education, diabetes management, maternity, wound healing and sleep medicine.

For more information on Trinitas Regional Medical Center, visit: [www.TrinitasRMC.org](http://www.TrinitasRMC.org) or call (908) 994-5138.



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## MICHAEL MCAUSLAND TO COMPETE AT NATIONAL GEO BEE

Back on Saturday, March 7, 2020, Michael McAusland competed in the all-day 2020 New York City North Regional Finals at Ridgewood High School, NJ and was awarded First Place in Geography Bee, Second Place in Academic Bee and Third Place in History Bee.

Michael tested and ranked top-tier among his Warren Middle School peers to advance to Regionals. Michael competed with Middle School finalists across New Jersey, New York and CT school districts, and was invited to compete in mid-June at the National Championship in Chicago. Michael is currently in 6th grade at Warren Middle School, Warren Township, and participates in WMS's E2 Enrichment Program taught by Dr. Susan Cooper.



(above) Michael McAusland



## CASA SHAW CONTINUES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties (CASA SHaW) is one of the nonprofits in our region that is doing its part to make sure that vulnerable children and families have items they can utilize as they cope with our new social realities during the COVID-19 crisis.

"Child abuse and neglect increase when schools are closed, caregivers lose their income, and worries about bills, food, and family stress builds. Due to the current crisis we all are facing and our new social realities of being quarantined, many foster children do not have ready access to their regular stabilizers and safety nets. We have been delivering items to help these kids and their families by letting them know they are not forgotten during this time," said Tracey Heisler, Executive Director of CASA SHaW.

In addition to helping children in foster care, CASA SHaW has also been delivering items like First Night bags, toiletry kits, birthday bags and boxes, nightlights, books, pajamas, school supplies, crayons and coloring books, backpacks, puzzles, games, and socks to other families in the community who need support. Staff also made "comfort bags" for medical personnel at local hospitals with donations from the Bound Brook Women's Club. These donations came to CASA SHaW from friends

like St. John of the Mountain Church in Bernardsville, New York Life in Lebanon, the Jack and Jill Club of Central New Jersey, numerous women's club groups in the tri-counties, and many other community partners.

Heisler recently received a heartwarming message from a grandmother of a foster child indicating that her very depressed 13-year old grandson, of whom she has custody, was elated to have received a birthday bag, a birthday box, and a First Night bag from CASA SHaW. "She told me, 'it has been years since I have seen him as excited as he was going through his birthday bag and the other things you brought,'" Heisler said. "It is truly amazing what we can all do collectively even during times of uncertainty and fear," said Heisler.

CASA of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties is part of a statewide network of community-based, non-profit programs that recruit, screen, train and supervise volunteers to "Speak Up for a Child" removed from home due to abuse or neglect. CASA is the only program in New Jersey that uses trained volunteers to work one-on-one with children, ensuring that each one gets the services needed and achieves permanency in a safe, nurturing home. To find a local CASA program in your county, visit [casaofnj.org](http://casaofnj.org).

## 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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# WARREN TOWNSHIP'S UNSUNG HERO

*Submitted by Shannon Regan*

During these unprecedented times, all throughout the county those in the healthcare field, police, first responders, restaurant staff, educators, grocery store employees and many more have risen to the occasion to support their communities.

In addition to essential employees, many local heroes have emerged as well. One such person who is demonstrating strength and courage is Michael Armao. Armao, a Warren Middle School student from Warren Township, New Jersey, has taught himself how to manufacture Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), specifically plastic face shields using his 3D Printer.

Like most people, Armao is keenly aware of the desperate need for PPE for those on the frontlines. Armao's father is an anesthesiologist at JFK Medical Hospital in Livingston, NJ. Armao wanted to be sure that his father and other JFK staff had access to PPE which is why he started this selfless act.

At the time of this writing, Armao has printed 50 face shields and plans to continue his efforts by printing 25 each day going forward. According to Armao's mother Jennifer, the news of her son's good deeds is spreading quickly on social media. Members from the community including a doctor, a grocery store employee, and a parent concerned for her daughter's health have contacted Armao for his help. On April 1, Armao

and his family dropped off 25 of his plastic face shields to an infectious disease doctor who resides in Warren Township.

Armao's original goal was to help his father and his co-workers but his mission has blossomed into helping his community.

Armao would like to share the printing instructions so that others who have access to a 3D printer might follow his lead (Thingiverse.com/thing:4249152).

Jennifer is very proud of her son, "Michael is a laid back kid and he was just doing this for his dad. He is happy but wasn't expecting to get so much attention." She also added, "above all, please stay home so our medical staff can manage this situation."

The Warren Township School District is beyond proud of Armao. "This doesn't surprise me at all. Michael is a caring young man, and the fact that he has used his intelligence and resources for the safety of others during this time is pure Michael. He has a heart of gold," stated Mrs. Myranda Shimko, Armao's English Language Arts teacher.

"In our Innovation and Design class, Michael was always able to think outside the box to problem solve and help group members. This is another example that shows how Michael thinks of others and comes up with solutions. Great job, Michael," added Mrs. Lynn Alger, Armao's Innovation and Design teacher.



(above) Michael Armao. Armao, a Warren Middle School student, has taught himself how to manufacture plastic face shields using his 3D Printer for the community.

Photo by Jennifer Armao

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# SCLSNJ CELEBRATES 90 YEARS OF SERVICE EXCELLENCE

*Submitted by Tracy Carney*

Over the past nine decades, the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) has evolved from a small book truck, known as the bookmobile, to a Library System consisting of 10 full service branches across Somerset County. This year, SCLSNJ will celebrate 90 years of service to the Somerset County community by making enhancements throughout the system including additions to the collection, new resources and services, and more.

“Since 1930, SCLSNJ has striven to maintain our vision to work together to enrich lives, to expand knowledge, and to strengthen communities,” said Brian Auger, county library administrator. “The Library System is, and always has been, a cornerstone of our community. We are consistently responsive to the needs of our customers and are planning a number of exciting releases and events for our 90th year.”

## THEN AND NOW

In the 1930s, Somerset County residents would have access to explore the bookmobile only once per month, when it made its rounds to their local community. Fast forward 90 years to 2020, and customers can browse the Library’s collection in the comfort of their own homes, through the internet, or even on the go through the Library’s cell phone app.

In the 1930s, there were just 100 stops a month on the bookmobile’s route that consisted of 37 centers and 63 schools. In 2019, the Library

System branch visitors totaled over 1.1 million.

Nine decades ago, SCLSNJ’s collection consisted of just 500 print books. Now the Library System has a growing collection of over 702,000 books while also offering newspapers and magazines; media including music CDs, DVDs, and videogames; and audiobooks and e-books. While the bookmobile lent out an average of 300 print books a day, the current Library System circulates an average of 3,700 physical materials and almost 700 e-books daily.

Today, in addition to books, the Library System is so much more. SCLSNJ offers hundreds of programs a month for patrons of all ages; a cultural adventure pass, which allows Library customers to explore local museums, parks, and more; dozens of digital resources; and a number of services including foreign language learning, notary services, and passports.

## WHAT’S NEW IN 2020 AND BEYOND

SCLSNJ continues to evolve by enhancing current services, adding to the ever-expanding collection, and by offering new resources to the community.

In 2020, the Library System launched Internet

On the Go, free mobile hotspots available for checkout; appointment-based notary services; and new digital resources including BrianHQ and Gale courses.

In future years, the Library System will continue to evolve and grow to meet the needs of the dynamic community by offering relevant resources, programs, and services to Library customers.

Explore everything your Library has to offer: SCLSNJ.org.

## ABOUT SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM OF NEW JERSEY

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, to explore, to share and to discover. Together we enrich lives, expand knowledge and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ branches can be found in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Rocky Hill at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Additionally, there are two SCLSNJ reading stations in Branchburg and Washington Valley. Visit SCLSNJ.org.



(above) The original SCLSNJ Bookmobile.



(above) Shirley Todoroff, lifelong Somerset County resident and SCLSNJ operations supervisor of processing in technical services, who is celebrating 50 years of employment with the Library System in 2020.

## Warren Township Recreation

### ADOPT A TRAIL PROGRAM

Warren Recreation is seeking local businesses and organizations who are interested in sponsoring and maintaining select trail heads in Warren. Organizations can select a mini-mum of one trail head to sponsor. Those who sponsor a trail head are only required to maintain the trail head area from May 1st to November 1st. Sponsorships are done on a yearly basis and a donation of \$300 is required.

#### Sponsorship Benefits:

- ◊ Advertisement of organization by a sign placed at the trail head and published in media sources.
- ◊ Community Service Hours

#### Trail Head Options:

- ◊ Dealaman Nature Trail & Pond
- ◊ Codington Woods
- ◊ Stransky
- ◊ Glenhusrt

If interested in Adopting a Trail applicants must submit the sponsorship application and agreement which is available at [www.warrennj.org/recreation](http://www.warrennj.org/recreation)

For more details & questions go to [www.warrennj.org/recreation](http://www.warrennj.org/recreation) or contact Recreation Director, Joe Passaro at 908-753-8000 ext. 270 or [jpassaro@warrennj.org](mailto:jpassaro@warrennj.org)







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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>

## 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).



(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 Szwczuk.

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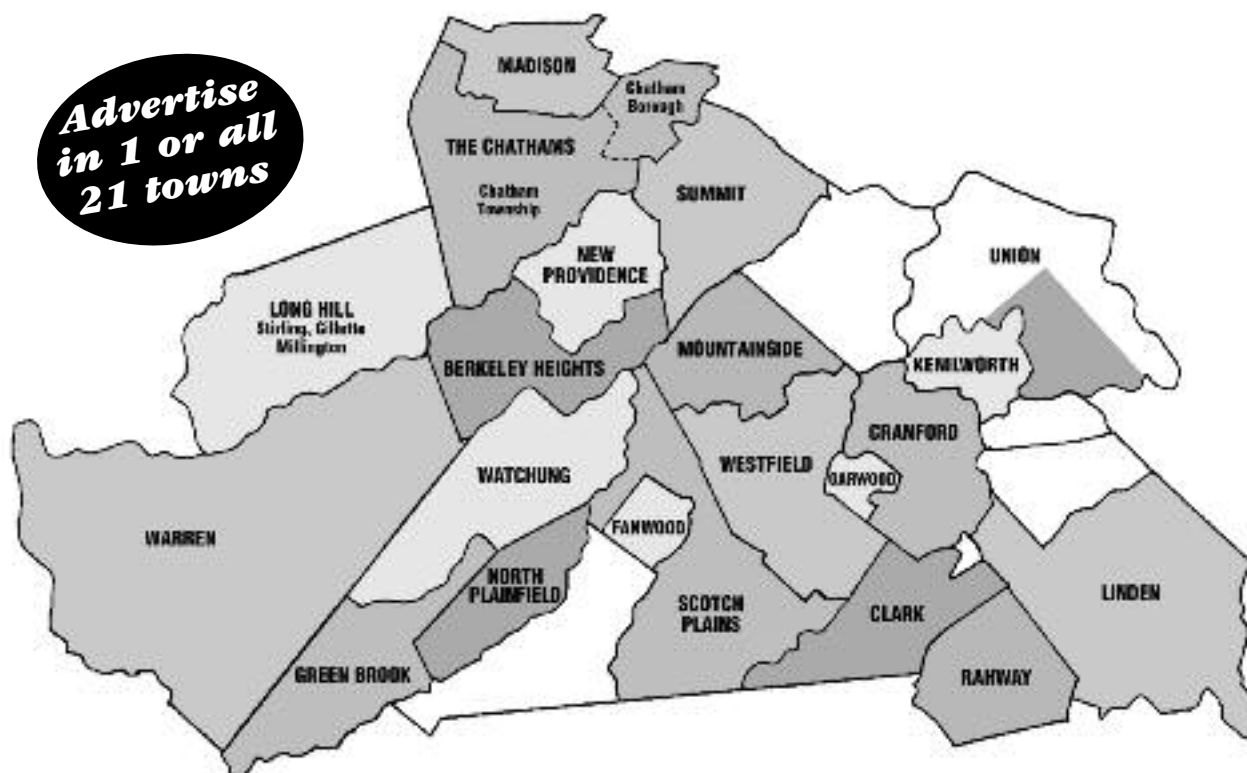
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<b>9 HALF PAGE</b>	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	<b>\$320</b>	<b>\$800</b>	<b>\$1000</b>	<b>\$1300</b>	<b>\$1600</b>	<b>\$1900</b>	<b>\$2200</b>	<b>\$2400</b>
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<b>2 PAGE SPREAD</b>	21" x 14"	<b>\$700</b>							
<b>BACK PAGE</b>	10" x 14"	<b>\$500</b>							
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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:

- 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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