

Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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HONORING THE PEOPLE WHO ANSWER THE CALL

Submitted by Susan Baldani, a life member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad

This year, National EMS Week was held from May 17th through the 23rd. Instituted in 1974 by President Gerald Ford, it's a time to recognize and celebrate EMS practitioners and the important work they do in our nation's communities.

Due to COVID-19, the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad was not able to hold any of the special events it had planned that week, but hopefully they can be done at a later date. In its 83rd year of service, this life-saving organization's volunteers are proud to be here for the community of Scotch Plains and surrounding towns, handling all types of emergency calls.

Squad members are thankful for the continuous financial support of the community, which has made it possible to carry out its mission of caring for its neighbors since 1937. Recently, during the COVID-19 crisis, residents and business owners have also shown their gratitude by delivering meals to the EMTs on duty. This outpouring of appreciation has made a meaningful impact on all those serving.

The all-volunteer Scotch Plains Rescue Squad also welcomes new members to assist with calls, as well as standbys at high school football games, the summer concerts on the Village Green, Scotch Plains Day, and other community events. In addition, squad members provide demonstrations for Boy and Girl Scout troops, clubs, and any other groups that may be interested in learning about what the squad does.

Please feel free to contact the SPRS regarding donating or volunteering at scotchplainsrescuesquad@gmail.com or (908) 322-2103 (for non-emergencies).



(above) Chief Carolyn Sorge and President Dan Sullivan

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(above) Members of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad

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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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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

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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Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com

BIKE DONATIONS SOUGHT ON BEHALF OF PEDALS FOR PROGRESS

Now is a great time to do some spring cleaning. Maybe you have a bike taking up space in your garage, shed or basement. Maybe it is an old model, a bit worn, in need of repair, or just something you or your kids have outgrown. We have a great option for you that is socially and environmentally responsible.

Faith Lutheran Church, New Providence is currently collecting bicycles in usable and/or repairable condition on behalf of Pedals for Progress (P4P), an organization which annually recycles thousands of bicycles, sending them to countries around the world. Faith Lutheran has been partnering with P4P since 2002 and has collected thousands of bikes in that time.

Anyone wishing to donate an adult or kid-sized bike can drop it off at the far end of the church parking lot near the little brown shed at 524 South Street in New Providence. There is no need to call ahead, just drive up and drop off

your donation in the lot and Faith will make sure it gets to P4P. To arrange for pick up, contact the Church Office at 908-464-5177 or leave a message and someone will get back to you.

In the last 29 years, P4P has collected more than 159,000 bicycles and shipped them to people in need in places including Latin America, South America, Africa, Thailand, and the Balkans. In each of these locations, the bikes are reconditioned by partner agencies and distributed at low cost to poor working adults or wherever there is need. Donated bikes previously used for relaxation and recreation get a second life providing life-sustaining and reliable transportation for people to commute to work or school, to transport produce to market, and to access healthcare and other services.

For more information visit Pedals for Progress' website at p4p.org.



(above) Volunteers remove the pedals and zip-tie them to the bike frame, then turn and lock down the handlebars so that the bikes can be tightly packed onto P4P's truck and then onto overseas shipping containers.



(above) P4P staff are bike experts. They are also masters at using space wisely. All these bikes and more will be loaded on the truck shown and will make their way to people around the world.

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BE STREET SMART AND STAY SAFE

Submitted by Susan Baldani, a life member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Do you have 1.5 hours a week, every other week, or once a month, to be a volunteer driver for Mobile Meals of Westfield, delivering meals to our neighbors? Hot and cold meals prepared by our chef are delivered fresh to our clients Monday through Friday mornings starting at 10:45 a.m. Please contact us at 908-233-6146 if you can help, and for more information. We serve the residents of 7 towns: Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains, and Westfield.

POLICE DEPT COLLECTING FOOD AND TOILETRIES

In a collaborative effort to replenish the local Food Banks, Fanwood Police Chief Richard Trigo and Scotch Plains Police Chief Ted Conley have joined together and have set up food collections sites at their respective police departments.

The police department is accepting any of the following: vegetables, potatoes, jelly, peanut butter, pasta, pasta sauce, tuna fish, coffee, canned fruits, snacks, cake mix, mac and cheese, full-size toiletries, soap, and toilet paper.

It's hard being stuck inside, and not being able to visit family and friends makes it even more difficult. Now that warm temperatures are here, getting outside and being more active is a nice respite from the isolation and boredom of the last couple of months.

Lately, it's very common to see adults and children walking, biking, and skateboarding throughout neighborhoods while practicing social distancing, which is smart. However, there are other dangers on the street. Although there may not be as many motorists traveling as there were before this virus hit, the advice of looking both ways before entering a roadway still applies.

When you're crossing a street or moving into the street to give others a wide berth, take note of traffic ahead of and behind you. Driver's will not expect you to walk out into the road. Don't cut down on one risk while adding to another. Make sure the road is clear.

While biking and skateboarding, wear a helmet, and make sure your children do the same.

Talk to your kids about being aware of their surroundings and obeying the same rules of the road that they have in the past.

Keeping yourself safe is a priority all the time, not just during a pandemic. So, get some fresh air and exercise, and wave to your neighbors and friends, but practice vigilance when sharing the road with others.



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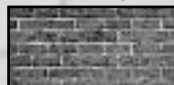
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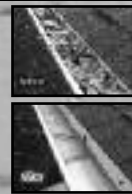
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ALPHONSE FANTINI - SCOTCH PLAINS 2020 MEMORIAL DAY GRAND MARSHAL



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Born in Montazzoli, Italy, one hundred years ago, Mr. Fantini came to Scotch Plains as a young child.

During WWII, Mr. Fantini was stationed at Cape May and in Delaware, where he was a Coast Artillery Army sergeant. Later, he was stationed in the Pacific and would have participated in an invasion of Japan, a mission that was aborted once Japan surrendered following the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Upon his return to civilian life, Mr. Fantini worked as a welder for 55 years at Hosokawa Micron Powder Systems.

He was married for 71 years to Donna Fantini, who passed away. Donna and Alphonse were blessed with three children (Claire, Ronald, and Mary Ann), four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



(above) Hometown Hero Banner
Alphonse Fantini

Photo by Fanwood Borough

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(above) Alphonse Fantini



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SERVING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY

Submitted by Susan Baldani

There is something remarkable happening in Scotch Plains and Fanwood right now. These two communities have come together like never before to help feed the over 100 veterans at Valley Brook Village. What started off as a one-time request for food has turned into a recurring outpouring of love and respect.

The residents and business owners of these two towns have consistently been extremely supportive of Friends of Valley Brook, an organization that assists previously homeless veterans living at Valley Brook on the VA campus at Lyons. Containers can often be seen in delis, pizzerias, butcher shops, barber shops, pet food stores and other establishments in these towns, and donations have always been generous. Business owners who collect this money give back 100% of these donations in the form of food, products or services. Every cent donated is used to help our veterans, and many of these business owners give back even more than collected. Money is never handled by FOVB volunteers; all donations go directly to the small businesses that support its causes.

Now, however, due to Covid 19, patrons are no longer allowed into the stores and therefore do not have the ability to donate in this way. Unfortunately, this is also the time when the veterans are in greatest need. Since many don't have transportation, they have always relied on weekly van excursions to supermarkets. These trips have been temporarily discontinued due to the virus. To make things even more dire, many of these veterans are also now out of work. These combined events created a scarcity of food for these brave men and women.

When the founder of Friends of Valley Brook, Steve Hackenberg, approached a local Realtor, Maria Ackerman (whose entire family was already actively involved with the organization) for help with feeding the veterans, an amazing phenomenon was born.

Maria put out the word and set up a table in her driveway for people to drop off donations on Tuesdays by 4:00 p.m. Within a week, over 200

meals were picked up and distributed at Valley Brook Village.

The second week, an additional day (Friday) was designated for drop offs. Before long, there was a line of cars outside Maria's house on Mountain Avenue in Scotch Plains. Many of the meals and desserts were homemade, and some were also donated by restaurants, including one in Cranford. People also selflessly donated hard-to-find items such as paper towels, toilet paper and home-made masks. Since Friends of Valley Brook also includes the Help Vets Pets program, people dropped off cat litter and dog and cat food as well.

To ensure everyone's safety, everything is done while practicing social distancing. Along with the adults taking part in this remarkable undertaking, many local teenagers are also volunteering their time. They help pack up individual meals in their homes, and then load them into the vehicles making the deliveries. Some even take part in handing out the food to the veterans. Seeing the gratitude on the veterans' faces is one of the greatest rewards for all their hard work.

The veterans at Valley Brook Village are overwhelmed with the outpouring of love and support, and appreciate everyone involved, from those who spend hours cooking, to those buying supplies, to the people and the restaurants who so generously donate. They are also thankful to the volunteers who transport it all to their facility.

To find out how you can get involved, go to the Friends of Valley Brook Facebook page.

"THANK YOU again for a delicious meal for me and my fellow Valley Brook Village residents!! We just finished up the meals from the other day and some were wondering, 'NOW what do we do?' And lo and behold, here comes Hackenberg and Co. with more food!!! We don't have the words to be able to thank you enough. God bless you and everyone involvedSemper Fidelis (always faithful.)"

- Dave Merchant, U.S. Marine, and Valley Brook Village resident.

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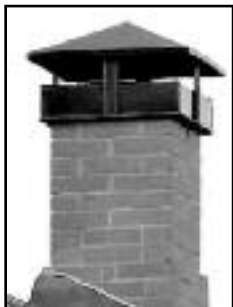
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CARING CONTACT CONTINUES TO ANSWER CALLS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

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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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

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THE AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL DAY SPEECH

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. Since local Memorial Day celebrations have been canceled due to Covid-19, the Legion's national headquarters distributed the below speech to commemorate Memorial Day 2020. The writer wishes to remain anonymous.

Every crisis has new heroes. During the 9/11 attacks, they were the first responders running into burning and crumbling buildings as others ran out. Now, during the Coronavirus pandemic, the most visible heroes are the health care professionals, who are saving others and risking their own lives while doing so.

These heroes have much in common with the people that we honor today – America's fallen veterans. They are men and women who have sacrificed their own lives so others could live. They are both elite and ordinary. They are elite in the sense of character. Giving your life so others could live is the ultimate definition of selfless.

They are ordinary in the fact that they represent the diverse fabric of our country. They are rich and poor, black and white, male and female. They come from every ethnicity and background. In short, they looked like anyone of us.

As we celebrate the selfless and untiring performances of the healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, it brings to mind the military medics, doctors and nurses who sacrificed their lives while treating others on the battlefield.

One such hero was Pharmacist Mate Third Class Jack Williams. The Navy Reserve corpsman was only 20 years old when he landed on Iwo Jima 75 years ago.

On March 3, 1945, James Naughton, a Marine in Williams' unit, was wounded by a grenade. While under intense enemy fire, Williams dragged Naughton to a shallow depression and treated his wounds. Williams used his own body as a screen and was shot four times. Yet he continued.

After he treated Naughton, Williams dressed his own wounds. He then proceeded to treat another Marine, despite his own immense pain. While heading to the rear, he was hit by a sniper's bullet and killed. For his actions, Petty Officer Williams was awarded the Medal of Honor.

We also remember Army veterans like Lieutenant Sharon Lane.

According to her biographer, Philip Bigler, Lt. Lane threw herself into her work as a nurse. While serving in Colorado, she requested a transfer to Vietnam.

"There, at least, you are busy 12 hours a day, six or seven days a week," she said in a 1968 letter to her parents.

Her dedication was obvious, even as she treated enemy Viet Cong soldiers who would return the favor by kicking, cursing and spitting at their American captors.

In the early morning of June 8, 1969, Sharon's tour of duty ended. A Soviet-built rocket struck

the hospital. Lieutenant Sharon A. Lane was killed in action at age 25.

If she were still here, her skills as a nurse might still be benefiting us during the current crisis. But not all of the heroes working during the COVID-19 pandemic are in the healthcare industry. Grocers, first responders, delivery workers and drive-through restaurant employees are just a few of the many people that we rely on to provide vital services for society while risking their own safety.

The military also has heroes in every occupational field. Truck drivers, cooks and administrative clerks have all paid the ultimate price. At sea, on land or in the air – military service requires great risk.

Roy Knight, Jr. was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. On May 19, 1967, he was shot down while attacking a target on the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos. He was posthumously promoted to colonel. Last year, a joint team from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency discovered and later identified Col. Knight's remains.

When his remains arrived at Dallas's Love Field, a crowd had gathered to witness the dignified transfer of the flag-draped casket from the Southwest Airlines jet into the receptive arms of the military honor guard. One observer reported that the entire crowd fell silent.

The Southwest flight was piloted by another Air Force veteran, Col. Knight's son, Bryan. Bryan Knight was only five-years-old when he said goodbye to his father as the elder Knight left for Vietnam.

This is yet another legacy that these heroes leave behind. A legacy that includes their sons, daughters, grieving parents, grandparents and friends.

Their heroic acts are sometimes performed to protect those with whom they serve. Corporal Jason Dunham was a squad leader with the Third Battalion, 7th Marines in Iraq.

On April 14, 2004, his squad approached a Toyota Land Cruiser. After his squad discovered

AK-47s in the vehicle, the enemy insurgent exited and engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with the unit. The driver dropped a grenade.

To save his fellow Marines, Corporal Dunham made the ultimate sacrifice. He threw himself on the grenade and tried to use his helmet to shield the blast. Severely wounded by the grenade's fragments, Cpl. Dunham was taken off life-support eight days later.

Corporal Dunham died so other Marines could live. He, too, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry.

Approximately one million men and women of the U.S. military have lost their lives in defense of our nation since the founding of this great Republic.

Not all have died from enemy fire. Some have died from diseases that have too often festered around war zones. Often times, deaths from disease and accidents outnumbered casualties caused by enemy weapons.

During the Spanish American War, 60 soldiers of the all-black 24th Infantry Regiment volunteered to serve as nurses. Thirty-six of them would later die of yellow fever or malaria.

A generation later, the flu would kill nearly 16,000 U.S. soldiers in France during World War I. Another 30,000 American servicemembers died in stateside camps. These men and women could have isolated safely in their homes. But they knew they had an important job to do. A mission to accomplish. They were all on a mission to serve.

Even when the enemy is an invisible virus or a microscopic germ, the sacrifices made are just as meaningful. The U.S. military has already lost servicemembers to COVID-19.

This Memorial Day as we continue to honor those who fell for us in battle, let's also pause to remember those who have also sacrificed their lives while serving others.

May God bless them and may God bless you for remembering them here today.

Thank you.

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LITERACY NEW JERSEY WELCOMES NEW VOLUNTEER TUTORS

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.



(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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VIRTUAL FARMER'S MARKET IN WESTFIELD

Submitted by Gene Jannotti, CEO - GWACC

The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) organized the first Virtual Farmer's Market at the North Avenue Train Station Parking lot in Westfield on Saturday, May 3, 2020 and will continue with deliveries every Saturday morning. The Governor's March 21, 2020 Executive Order explicitly cited Farmer's Markets as essential businesses and this new-look Farmer's Market offers a combination of online shopping and weekly pick up to keep shoppers connected with local farmers and producers.

Customers can place their online orders all week until 11:59 p.m. on Thursday night. Each vendor will prepare and package the individual orders on Friday and bring them to the market on Saturday morning. The vendors will place the purchases in your car trunk at a scheduled time slot arranged alphabetically by last name starting at 10 am and completing by 12 noon. Pick up is by car only. If you don't have a car, please ask a friend to retrieve your order. Car windows should remain closed while in the market area. Nothing is available for purchase at the market and all orders must be placed online by Thursday night. The volunteer market managers are Chris and Lisa Devine and they have worked many hours to make this Virtual Farmer's Market a reality.

At this writing the Virtual Market is averaging over 200 customer orders each week and continues to grow. All social distancing protocols are followed. The vendors and volunteers directing traffic have appropriate face coverings

as the purchases are loaded into car trunks by the vendors.

To begin the ordering process, please go to the GWACC website, gwaccnj.com/farmers-market and click on "Place Your Order Here". There are a wide variety of products currently available and additional products and suppliers will be added each week. The current market vendors are Clifford Family Farm, Donaldson's Farm, Old Village Farm, Goat Hill Farm, Reason's Wine and La Bon Bake Shop. Additional vendors are expected to be included each week.

If you have any questions, please contact the GWACC office by email at info@gwaccnj.com.

For 71 years, the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) has been connecting commerce and community. The GWACC promotes the economic prosperity of businesses primarily in Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield. It is the largest association of businesses and nonprofits in our area. Members include business owners, professionals, managers and operators. Membership cultivates the opportunity to build relationships, partner, make referrals, increase business, attend lunch and learns, and support the community.

For more information about the GWACC, visit gwaccnj.com. Our office remains closed during the pandemic but you are welcome to call the office at 908-233-3021 and leave a message. A member of the staff will return your call. For any additional information regarding the GWACC Foundation, please contact the Chamber Office.

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YOUNG ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES ON PAPER MILL STAGE AUGUST 8TH

Submitted by Shayne Austin Miller

Paper Mill Playhouse has joined forces with the Cranford, New Jersey based non-profit Shining Stars Network to co-produce a performance featuring young artists with disabilities entitled “An Evening of Shining Stars: The Greatest Show!” The showcase will offer audiences a Broadway spectacular featuring your favorite music, dance and production numbers from the Great White Way and will take place on Saturday, August 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at Paper Mill Playhouse (22 Brookside Drive, Millburn, NJ).

Tickets went on sale this March starting at just \$25 and may be purchased by calling 973-376-4343 or online at PaperMill.org. This event marks an expansion of Paper Mill Playhouse’s Theater for Everyone program, an award-winning initiative that includes performances and classes for people with autism and other developmental disabilities and their families. Paper Mill’s Theater for Everyone program strives to weave inclusion throughout the fabric of the institution, creating opportunities for people of all abilities to learn, perform and attend performances with independence and dignity.

Shining Stars Network was created to put a spotlight on the special needs community and showcase their talents. By producing inclusive entertainment, opportunities are provided for people with and without disabilities to work together to create experiences that enhance lives. Shining Stars performers are individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities who perform in inclusive events that build self-esteem and friendships. Performers are shadowed by Shining Star buddies, neurotypical high school

students who help Shining Star performers learn new things and develop strong friendships. Founded in 2012 and initially serving Union County, New Jersey, there are now Shining Stars performers from seven different New Jersey counties.

“Prepare to be amazed as our special needs performers and their high school buddies take the stage in front of an audience of over 1,000,” shared Shining Stars Director Sally Curci. “When the lights go up, the stars always shine, entertaining with solo acts and full-cast dance choreography. The audience is wonderful, and our performers are amazing. Each and every year our audience has grown along with our cast. They continue to inspire us every day. We are so excited to give our special cast the chance to perform at such a great venue as Paper Mill Playhouse.”

“An Evening of Shining Stars: The Greatest Show!” is an amazing opportunity to foster a love for performing for these young artists whose gifts are many,” remarked Paper Mill Playhouse Producing Artistic Director Mark S. Hoebee. “We’re very pleased to be working with Shining Stars to make this event come to life on the historic Paper Mill stage. When the New Jersey legislature-designated Paper Mill as the State Theater of New Jersey in 1972, we made it our mission to ensure that the art and cultural experiences at Paper Mill were available and meaningful to the entire population. This event speaks to that core mission in a meaningful way.”

Shining Stars Network is a non profit organization founded by Sally and Mike Curci that shines the light on the special needs

community by creating opportunities in the performing arts, with the goal of building self-confidence and self-esteem while enjoying the experience of performing on stage. In addition, their Shining Stars Ambassadors basketball team travels to play local first responders and organizations while building friendship and understanding. Now entering its 4th year, Camp Shine, a two-week intensive special needs performing arts summer camp, will take place the last two weeks of August 2020.

For more information on Shining Stars Network or any of their programs, please visit ShiningStarsNetwork.org or send your email to info@ShiningStarsNetwork.org.

Paper Mill Playhouse, a not-for-profit arts organization under the direction of Mark S. Hoebee (Producing Artistic Director) and Michael Stotts (Managing Director), recipient of the Regional Theatre Tony Award, is one of the country’s leading regional theaters. Paper Mill Playhouse programs are made possible, in part, by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Paper Mill Playhouse is a member of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre, the Council of Stock Theatres, and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance. Paper Mill Playhouse Education and Outreach are proudly sponsored by The Goren Family and The Harmony Helper App. Major funding for autism-friendly programs is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and Wells Fargo. Additional support includes Autism Speaks, BD, The Thomas & Agnes Carvel Foundation, The Karma Foundation, Merck, MetLife Foundation, Nordstrom, and Summit Area Public Foundation.



(above) *Shining Stars set to take Paper Mill stage August 8th, 2020.*

An Important Message to our Community

Your Safety is our Top Concern!



Gary S. Horan



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Thank you for your overwhelming support during this pandemic. Businesses, restaurants, community organizations, religious groups and many, many individuals have reached out to show our staff that they're valued. We are very appreciative.

Stay Safe

Although the number of cases in New Jersey is declining, it is very important that we don't let down our guard. Continue to be safe by wearing face masks, washing your hands and practicing social distancing.

Above all, do not ignore your health. Don't become so focused on the COVID-19 pandemic that you neglect symptoms of serious disease like stroke, heart attack, and of course any serious injury. Chest pain, bleeding, shortness of breath, loss of muscular control, severe pain or dizziness, drug overdose, severe depression or anxiety, suicidal thoughts...these are just some of the serious symptoms that should be treated in a hospital.

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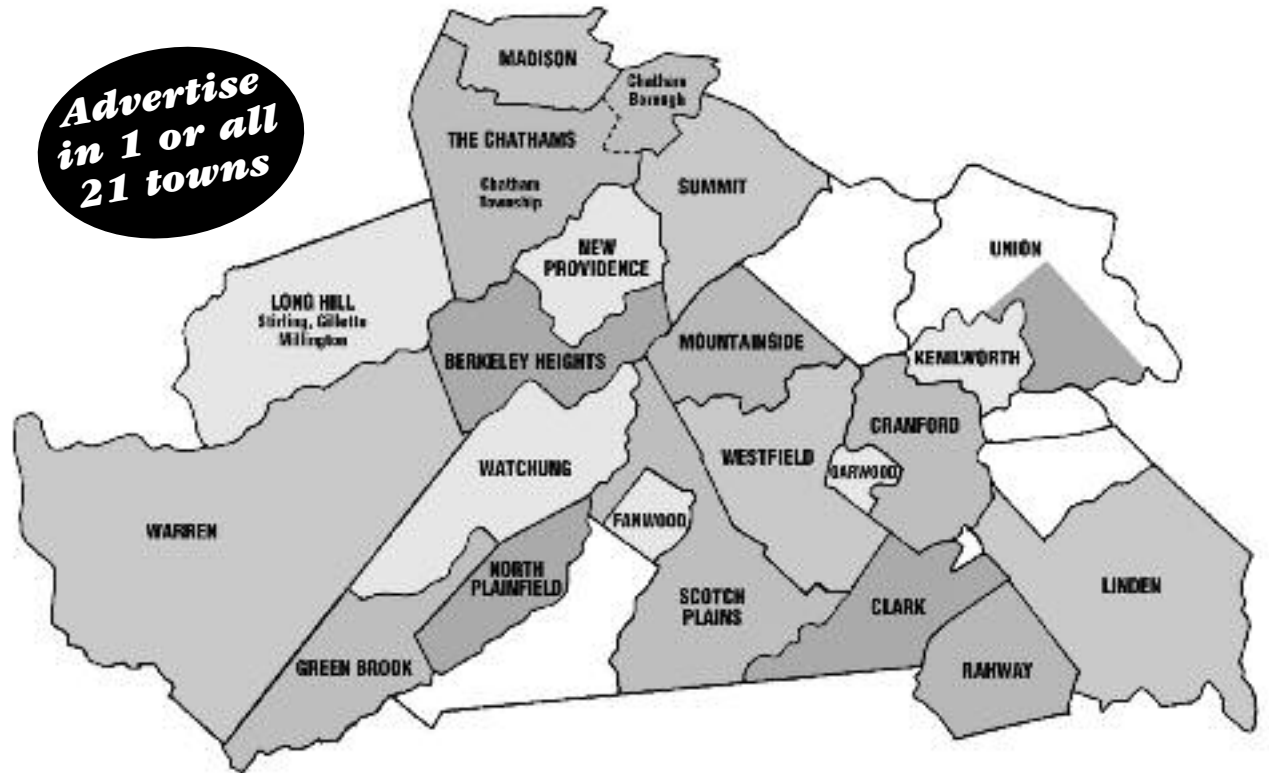
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contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design)
- Website Hosting:\$300 per year
Includes website hosting, software updates,
monthly website content updates
- SEO Services:average cost \$1,000 - \$2,000 per month
Custom tailored solutions:
Google Ranking, Local SEO, Social Marketing

Video advertising

Production:

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

Do not commit to a service unless you have a solid marketing plan and budget.

Your plan should work on paper before you spend dime one. Don't waste money just trying something. There is no magic bullet.
Call Joe for a free consultation.

Call Joe Renna 908-447-1295
Email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com

Check out Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network on You Tube. Call 908-447-1295 if you want your business featured on line and in print. See sample show below.



JENNIFER ALARCON - THE INSPIRATION BEHIND MEXICAN SPICE

I was born and raised in Mexico City, and now a happy resident of Chatham NJ for the last 13 years, I have searched for what I would call authentic and delicious Mexican food. Disappointed with my local findings, I decided to start my own little catering business to my friends and neighbors.

Business took off amazingly! In a matter of 3 years I went from making Salsa Verde in my own kitchen, to setting up a commercial kitchen, growing the team (or better said, building a team), participating in local Farmers Markets and catering countless events and parties.

We are now at two brick-and-mortar locations, and have exciting plans for continuing to grow.

Oh and did I mention the super-chic-amazing-fun-classy-fabulous Food Truck? Mexican Spice has a Food Truck which is the cutest little thing and we take it around New Jersey to cater special events like birthdays, weddings, and of course, to the local Food Truck Festivals.

I am passionate about the Mexican culture, the infinite flavors, colors and traditions, and I love that I am able to share "A little taste of Mexico" with the community.

SCAN QR CODE TO OPEN OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL



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