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NJ

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CIVIL AIR PATROL SQUADRON WINS NJ WING AWARDS

At 7:50 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2020, cadets and senior members of the New Jersey Civil Air Patrol (C.A.P.) were anxiously waiting for the announcement of the Cadet of the Year and the Squadron of Merit awards. By 8:10 p.m., the members of the NJ-102 Captain "Bud" Jackson Composite Squadron, located in Edison, New Jersey, were elated after winning three out of five awards announced. The squadron was awarded the 2019 NJ Wing Squadron of Merit, as well as the NJ Wing Cadet of the Year Phase 1, awarded to Cadet Staff Sergeant Dhyeyi Kakkad of Watchung, and the NJ Wing Cadet of the Year Phase 3, awarded to Cadet 1st Lieutenant Manali Shah of Scotch Plains.

Out of 24 squadrons in New Jersey, the NJ-102 squadron's achievement is a huge accomplishment. The Captain "Bud" Jackson squadron is the largest squadron in New Jersey with over 140 cadets and senior members. The squadron is very active in every aspect of the Civil Air Patrol, including Cadet Programs, Aerospace Education, and Emergency Services. The StellarXplorers team, competing in a national space competition, placed 3rd in the Northeast Region, making it to the Semi Final stages. The squadron has three CyberPatriot teams, both middle school and high school. The middle school team placed 3rd in their Division, while the high school team placed 3rd in the Platinum tier. Cadets continually train in Emergency Services for support on C.A.P. Search and Rescue and Disaster Relief missions. The squadron received the 2018 and 2019 Quality Cadet Unit Awards, along with the AEX Aerospace Excellence award.

Out of the 855 New Jersey Wing cadets, Cadet Staff Sergeant Kakkad was awarded Cadet of the Year Phase 1 and Cadet 1st Lieutenant Shah was awarded Cadet of the Year Phase 3.

Sergeant Kakkad is a current sophomore at Watchung Hills Regional High School. She has been a keen participant in the squadron's StellarXplorer team in 2019 and 2020. Through this, she is Level 1 certified for STK software.



(above) C/1st Lt Manali Shah at the NJWG Legislative Day on Capitol Hill, representing New Jersey's 12th Congressional District.



(above) Phase 1 Cadet of the Year C/SSgt Dhyeyi Kakkad

She has taken two Orientation Flights and earned the General Emergency Services certification. She has achieved her first milestone award and is an active leader of the Aerospace Support Staff department.

Cadet 1st Lieutenant Manali Shah is currently the cadet Executive Officer of the squadron, overseeing 14 Support Staff departments working towards achieving the goals of the squadron. She is a member of the Cadet Advisory Council, both Group and Wing levels. She is certified in several different aspects of emergency services, including Ground Team and Mission Base Staff. Lieutenant Shah attends the Union County Academy for Allied Health Sciences and is a current senior in high school. She is a certified NJ EMT and serves as a cadet volunteer with the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad. In February 2020, Lieutenant Shah was part of a group of cadets selected to travel to Washington D.C. for Civil Air Patrol's annual Legislative Day, as a state representative speaking on behalf of the squadron and wing in meetings with Congressional leaders.

The Captain "Bud" Jackson squadron is very proud of its achievements and its cadets. The squadron will continue to work hard to achieve future successes.

The Civil Air Patrol (C.A.P.) Cadet Program is open to all Middle School and High School students from ages 12 to 18.

For more information about the C.A.P., please contact Captain Jose Vergara at jose.vergara@njwg.cap.gov or visit the CAP webpage at gocivilairpatrol.com.

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Watchung Post

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

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WARRIOR DISTANCE LEARNING TECH SQUAD

Submitted by Denis Kelly

If there is ever a dominant common characteristic enabling the students, faculty, administration, even parents to get the most educational value out of the experience of living during the time of the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic, it is a newfound appreciation for all the essential workers, who are far too often taken for granted.

Introducing the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Distance Learning Tech Squad – The WHRHS IT Department. Since well before, but certainly doubly so since the start of the 2019-2020 School Year distance learning experience on March 16, they have been on-the-job, supporting students and teachers as the IT facilitators during the whole process.

The Warrior Distance Learning Tech Squad includes: IT Director Anthony Meluso, IT Manager Andy Bohl, Technicians Luis Nazario, Luis Kourany and Kevin Teeter, and Student Information Systems Manager Chris Beckert.

Meluso laid out the broad responsibilities for Tech Support during the distance learning experience.

“Planning started two weeks before the governor made the announcement to close school,” Meluso said. “IT was tasked with assessing available hardware and software for immediate use during the health-related closure.”

Meluso continued, “9th, 10th and 11th graders have 1:1 Chromebooks. For 12th grade, the students used their own devices. Surveys were conducted identifying students without a device and students without internet at home. On the Friday before closing, IT distributed over 50 loaner Chromebooks to seniors. We also have seven students without the Internet at home. We provided those students with Verizon Hotspots.”

He continued, “Any technology hardware repairs or requests for staff and students are processed weekly. Drop off and pick up windows are between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. each day through the Building and Grounds offices.”

Meluso said, “The role of Google Classroom during distance learning is tremendously



*(above) Anthony Meluso,
WHRHS Director of Technology*

Photo by WHRHS

important. Announcements, discussion, assessments, and grading are processed here. It's the hub that is needed to make communication flow without physically being in a classroom. Both teachers and students are already very familiar with all the possibilities of Google Classroom from prior professional development and the school's focus to make it part of the daily learning stream.”

When asked how the transition to online learning was, Meluso responded “The staff at Watchung Hills are professional educators and quickly handled the transition from in-class learning to distance learning. They prepared several weeks of lessons ahead of the school closure. Initially, there were some issues with recording their lessons, sharing their screens, and access to files and other resources. The IT team quickly addressed these and worked on building tutorials to share with the faculty and staff.”



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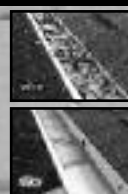
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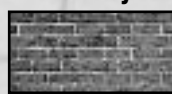
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WATCHUNG HILLS ELKS LODGE #885 DONATES TO FOODBANK NETWORK OF SOMERSET COUNTY

FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT TO PURCHASE AEDS

The Watchung Fire Department recently received and placed into service 5 AEDs purchased thanks to a generous grant from The John Taylor Babbitt Foundation. Four of the units are now located on apparatus and one will be placed in headquarters to allow members to provide rapid defibrillation if faced with a patient in sudden cardiac arrest. All Watchung firefighters are trained to the "Healthcare Provider" level of CPR in addition to the many other certifications they hold to ensure that Watchung is a safer place.

Follow the Watchung Fire Department on Facebook for more updates.



Submitted by Michael Ryder

The Elks National Foundation offers local lodges the opportunity to apply for grants for use in our Community Investment programs that relieve the poor, distressed or underprivileged; advance education or science; lessen the burdens of government; lessen neighborhood tensions; eliminate prejudice and discrimination and combat juvenile delinquency.

Every year, Watchung Hills Elks Lodge #885 ENF Committee Chair Joann Bataille applies for thousands of dollars in grants to support our charitable services for local veterans and special-needs children.

In April and May, our grants were approved and Joann was able to donate a total of \$2,000 in ENF Beacon and Gratitude grants to the Foodbank Network of Somerset County. More specifically, in April, \$500 of ShopRite gift cards and then in May a \$1,500 check and \$500 more in ShopRite gift cards were given to the Foodbank Network of Somerset County.

Every Elk member joins because they were invited to by friends and family, or because they wanted to be part of an organization that has been consistently giving back to local communities for over 150 years.

Won't you consider joining us? Seated on over 6 acres of park-like property in Warren Township,

Lodge #885 enjoys its own lodge building, pavilion, bandstand, picnic area, private members-only swimming pool and the Hofheimer Grotto.

Learn more about us at elkslodge885.org, come down and meet us at Watchung Hills Elks Lodge 885 or send us an email to get the ball rolling at membership@elkslodge885.org. We'd love to meet you, make friends and give you access to great opportunities for giving back to your community.



(above) Watchung Hills Elks Lodge #885 has been giving back to local communities for over 150 years.

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July 6, 7-8 p.m.
- Discover the Arts at SCLSNJ Sandy Bell Live Concert Online (all ages)**
July 17, 7-8 p.m.
- Once Upon a Time (families)**
July 18, 10-10:45 a.m.
- Healthy Smoothies (families)**
July 18, 2-3 p.m.
- Creatures Beyond Imagining (families)**
July 21, 6:30-7:15 p.m.
- CHILDREN AND TEENS**
- Puppet Time **
(ages 2-5 years and parents/caregivers)
July 1, 10-10:25 a.m.
- Book Club - Hero's Journey**
(entering grades 3-6)
July 1, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- STEAM Lab**
(entering grades K-2 and their caregivers)
July 1, 4-5 p.m.
- Fairy Tale Art - Dragons**
(entering grades K-2 and parents/caregivers)
July 2, 11-11:30 a.m.
- LEGO® Club (entering grades K-5)**
July 2, 4-5 p.m.
- Family Storytime - Twilight Tales**
(families with children)
July 2, 9; 7-7:30 p.m.
- Phenomenon (entering grades 6-12)**
July 6, 10-11 a.m.
- Hour of Code - Dragon Blast**
(entering grades 2-5)
July 6, noon - 1 p.m.
- Science Bites**
(entering grades 3-6 and parents/caregivers)
When Life Gives You Lemons...?
July 6, 2-3 p.m.
- Eggsasperatingly Easy Eggsperiments**
July 20, 2-2:30 p.m.
- Frozen Yogurt Pup-Cicles - A Treat for You and Your Dog**
(entering grades 3-5 and parents/caregivers)
July 7, 4:30-5:15 p.m.
- Music With Ms. Jenni**
(ages birth - 3 years and parent/caregivers)
July 8, 27; 10-10:45 a.m.
- Creatures From Around the World**
(entering grades K-5)
July 8, 7-7:30 p.m.
- Baby and Toddler Storytime - Discover Stories (ages birth - 3 years and parents/caregivers)**
July 9, 10-10:30 a.m.
- Fairy Tale Food (entering grades 2-4 and parents/caregivers):**
Little Red Hen's Apple Bread
July 9, 3-3:30 p.m.
- Jack's Bean Salad**
July 16, 2-2:30 p.m.
- Cinderella's Parfait**
July 23, 1:30-2 p.m.
- Digital Leadership Workshop**
(entering grades 9-12):
July 9, 5-6 p.m.
July 30, 1-2 p.m.
- American Sign Language Storytime**
(ages birth - 5 years and parents/caregivers)
July 10, 10:30-11 a.m.
- Jellyfish Sensory Bottle**
(ages 5-8 years and parents/caregivers)
July 10, 1-2 p.m.
- Learning Lab (entering grades K-5):**
Unicorn Science
July 10, 3-4 p.m.
- Oceans and Mermaids**
July 23, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- LEAP Into Science - Light and Shadow**
(grades K-4 and parents/caregivers)
July 11, 2-3 p.m.

- Arms and Armor Through the Ages**
(families with children)
July 13, 10-10:45 a.m.
- Book Discussion - "Muddy Max: The Mystery of Marsh Creek" by Elizabeth Rusch**
(entering grades 3-6)
July 13, 2-3 p.m.
- Camp Half-Blood Poseidon**
(entering grades K-6 and parents/caregivers)
July 13, 4-5 p.m.
- It's All Greek to Me (entering grades 6-12)**
July 13, 6-7 p.m.
- Ares and Athena**
(entering grades K-6 and parents/caregivers)
July 14, 4-5 p.m.
- Artemis and Apollo**
(entering grades K-6 and parents/caregivers)
July 15, 4-5 p.m.
- Hephaestus and Demeter**
(entering grades K-6 and parents/caregivers)
July 16, 4-5 p.m.
- Ambrosia and Nectar (entering grades 6-12)**
July 16, 6-7 p.m.
- Hermes**
(entering grades K-6 and parents/caregivers)
July 17, 4-5 p.m.
- Capture the Flag (entering grades 6-12)**
July 17, 6-8 p.m.
- Nature Explorers**
(entering grades K-2 and parents/caregivers)
July 14, 10-11 a.m.
- Secret Stories - Writing in Codes and Ciphers (entering grades K-5)**
July 14, 1-2 p.m.
- Author Visit - Beth Ferry**
(families with children)
July 14, 6:30-7 p.m.
- Toddler and Preschool Storytime(ages 18 months - 5 years and parents/caregivers)**
July 15, 16, 23; 10-10:30 a.m.
- Magical Creatures Party (entering grades 1-3 and parents/caregivers)**
July 15, 11 a.m. - noon
- Teen Paint Night - Watercolor Beach**
(entering grades 6-12)
July 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Music With Miss Donna**
(ages birth - 5 years and parents/caregivers)
July 16, 21; 10:30-11 a.m.
- Preschool Storytime (ages 3-5 years and parents/caregivers):**
STEM Stories
July 17, 10-10:30 a.m.
- The Ocean**
July 28, 10:30-11 a.m.
- Creative Writing Workshop**
(entering grades 7-12)
July 17, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- Beginner Magic Workshop (ages 6 and up):**
July 20, 10-11 a.m.
- Hour of Code - Candy Quest**
(entering grades 2-5)
July 20, noon - 1 p.m.
- STEAM - Mechanical Mysteries**
(entering grades 3-4)
July 20, 4-4:45 p.m.
- Family Book Discussion - "Aesop's Fables" (families with children entering grades K-5)**
July 20, 6-7 p.m.
- Medieval Murder Mystery**
(entering grades 6-12)
July 21, 1-2 p.m.
- Little Explorers - India**
(ages 3-5 years and parents/caregivers)
July 21, 4-4:45 p.m.
- Fairy Tale Theater(entering grades Pre-K to 3 and parents/caregivers)**
July 22, 10-10:30 a.m.
- Sew a Reusable Pouch (entering grades 3-6):**
July 22, 4-5 p.m.

- Draw a Story - Fairy Tales Around the World (entering grades K-2)**
July 22, 6-6:45 p.m.
- Puppet Time**
(ages 2-5 years and parents/caregivers)
July 24, 10-10:25 a.m.
- Once Upon a Building (entering grades 2-4):**
July 24, 2:30-3 p.m.
- Tropical Rainforest Animals**
(entering grades K-5 and families)
July 25, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
- Junior Detectives - The Librarian Who Wasn't (entering grades 4-8)**
July 27, 4-5 p.m.
- Teen Summer Reads Book Club**
(entering grades 9-12)
July 27, 6-7 p.m.
- Teen Trivia (entering grades 9-12)**
July 28, 2-3 p.m.
- Graphic Novel Book Club (entering grades 3-5)**
July 28, 4-5 p.m.
- Beyond Imagination (families with children):**
July 28, 7-8 p.m.
- Mini-Makers - Magical Homes**
(entering grades 2-6)
July 29, 1-2 p.m.
- Honey Heist (entering grades 6-12)**
July 29, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- Draw a Story - Fairy Tales Around the World (entering grades K-2)**
July 29, 5-5:45 p.m.
- Family Night - Egg Carton Sea Turtles (families with children)**
July 30, 4-5 p.m.
- Harry Potter Night (entering grades 5-10)**
July 31, 5-6:30 p.m.
- ADULTS**
- De-Stress and Unwind With Yoga - An Online Class From SCLSNJ**
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- Acing the Virtual Interview**
July 1, 7-8 p.m.
- Old Glory History of the American Flag - Presented by Kevin Woyce**
July 2, 7-9 p.m.
- Selected Readings - SCLSNJ Unites the Community Through Verse**
July 7, 14, 21, 28; 11-11:45 a.m.
- Understanding Your Financial Statements**
July 7, 1-2:30 p.m.
- Ten Unsung Heroes of Colonial America**
July 8, 7-8 p.m.
- Abbey Road and the End of the Beatles**
July 9, 7-8 p.m.
- The Wreck of the Broker - The Story of New Jersey's Deadliest Train Wreck**
July 13, 7-8 p.m.
- Online Training With SkillUp Greater Raritan**
July 14, 1-2 p.m.
- Here Comes the Bride**
A History of Marriage Traditions
July 15, 7-8 p.m.
- Fantasy Readers' Round Table**
July 16, 7-8 p.m.
- Summer Survival - Essential Oils to the Rescue**
July 20, 7-8 p.m.
- My Loved One Has Been Diagnosed With Dementia - What Do I Do Next?**
July 22, 7-8 p.m.
- Money Management Crash Course**
July 23, 2-3 p.m.
- No-Heat Recipes for Summer**
July 24, 3-4 p.m.
- Virtual Readers' Roundtable**
A Moderated Book Talk
July 27, 1-2 p.m.
- The 411 on Podcasts**
July 29, 11 a.m. - noon
- Meet the Author - Jason Love**
July 30, 7-8 p.m.

WATCHUNG ELKS LODGE 885 SUPPORTS THE ARC

Submitted by Michael Ryder

Early May, Lisa Marie Arieno contacted Elks Lodge 885 member Kim DeVizio. Lisa Marie is the director of Foundation Development and Public Relations with The Arc of Somerset, and wanted to see if the Elks could help the Arc's special needs families.

It was during a "Ladies of the Elks" Zoom meeting that the Arc's needs were relayed by Lisa Marie to explain the "why and need" for food. Somerset ARC has 34 group homes and supervised apartments, 95 residents and 65-75 staff members. The residents of these group homes are adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Most residents attend Adult-Day Care facilities but are unable to since the COVID-19 pandemic lock down began.

The Somerset ARC Direct Support Professionals are front line workers who are currently dealing with medically fragile patients at the group homes and apartments. The home-made meals would be one less thing they need to do for that day and would be very much

appreciated.

The Elks members stepped up! For the next four weeks they provided one home-cooked meal for the two homes located in Warren and two homes located in North Plainfield. This equates to approximately 25 meals. Each week we have one Chairperson who will coordinate the meal cooking and delivery. Our first delivery was picked up by Lisa Marie's husband and Arc volunteer Jamie Weinschenk.

Many people join the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks to participate in our patriotic events or help us provide volunteer services to veterans and special children's groups, or simply to make new friends in the local community.

Are you interested in joining the Elks? Our members come from Warren Township and from towns within a 10 mile radius. You can learn more about us at elkslodge885.org, come down and meet us at Watchung Hills Elks Lodge 885 or send us an email to get the ball rolling at membership@elkslodge885.org.



(above, l-r) Jamie Weinschenk, Betty Volker, Mary Lewis, David Lewis, Kathleen Olesen, Stephanie Zitsch, Linda Helmstetter and Kim DeVizio. Not pictured: Martha & John Pizzigoni, Liz Egan, Mel Doremus, Deni Heilman, Bridget Horn, Debbie Figel, Audrey Lipinski and Valerie Miziack



(above, l-r) Kathleen Olesen, Stephanie Zitsch, Jamie Weinschenk (Arc), Mary Lewis, David Lewis, Betty Volker

FRIENDS OF WATCHUNG LIBRARY ENCOURAGES SUMMER READING

The Friends of the Watchung Library, responding to a book drive held by Cresthaven Academy in Plainfield, donated over 100 books for kindergarten through 5th grade students in June. Cresthaven hopes to give each student at least two books to encourage summer reading.

Donated books include fiction and nonfiction with subjects ranging from arts and crafts to sports, from creepy insects to outer space. Peggy Ellis, volunteer manager of the Friends book store, said "I hope there is something to fascinate every child! Summer reading is so important for children to maintain their levels of literacy. And, besides, reading is fun."



(above) Danae Churchill carries books to be donated to kindergartners through 5th graders from Cresthaven Academy in Plainfield.



(above) Danae Churchill loads donated books into the back of her car for delivery to Cresthaven Academy. The Friends of the Watchung library donated 5 boxes, over 100 books, for summer reading for Cresthaven Academy students.

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SOMERSET COUNTY POSTMASTERS SHARE TIPS FOR RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

Last year, a total of 5,803 USPS employees were attacked by dogs in the United States. New Jersey ranked ninth among the 50 states with 169 dog attacks in 2019. The 17 postmasters serving the 21 municipalities in Somerset County are joining their colleagues throughout the Garden State and across the nation to raise public awareness of the importance of responsible pet ownership in helping prevent dog bites.

To prevent dog bites, Somerset County Postmasters recommend the following tips for responsible pet ownership:

Obedience training can teach dogs proper behavior and help owners control their dog in any situation.

When the letter carrier comes to your home,

keep your dog inside, away from the door, in another room, or on a leash.

Dogs can be protective of their territory and may interpret the actions of letter carriers as a threat. Please take precautions when accepting mail in the presence of your pet.

Dogs that haven't been properly socialized, receive little attention or handling, or are left tied-up for long periods of time frequently turn into biters.

By following these few simple tips, pet owners can significantly improve neighborhood safety for everyone.

The Postal Service has a short animated dog bite video available on its YouTube site, USPS TV

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CARING CONTACT CONTINUES TO ANSWER CALLS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

Watchung Post • Page 9 • July 2020

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

Approximately 90 volunteers answer the phone lines at Caring Contact. "It has been a challenge during this time to ensure that volunteers are kept safe", stated Executive Director Janet Sarkos. "All business operations were moved remotely in early March. We've altered our hotline operations so that only one listener at any a time is in each of our phone rooms. We are working together as an organization to ensure each phone station and other "common touch areas" are cleaned thoroughly between listeners, to further protect against contamination. It is vital that we continue to answer calls during this time of heightened anxiety".


But even with these office precautions, Caring Contact has updated their telephone and IT

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

If you are interested in learning more about Caring Contact please visit their website at caringcontact.org. 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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We Are Here to Listen

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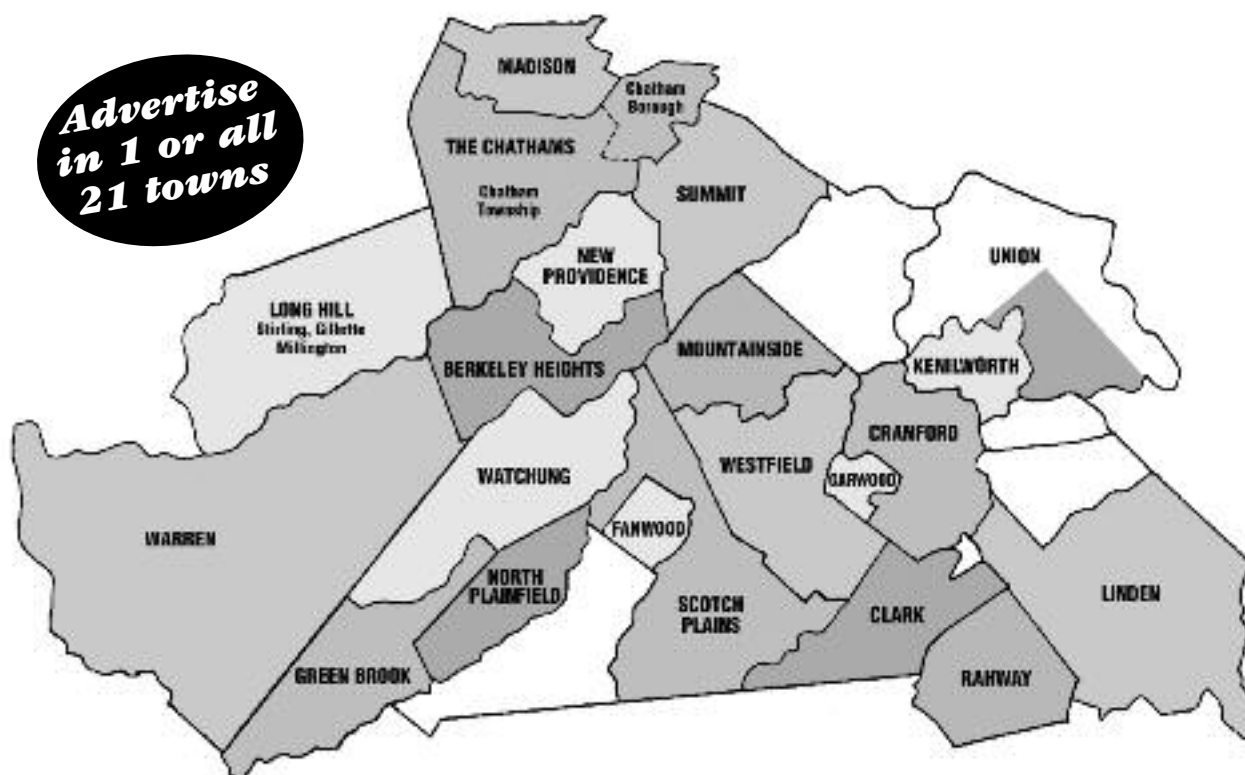
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Online Marketing is like the Wild West

Too many carpetbaggers are exploiting business owners, making empty promises that don't materialize.

Too many businesses are stuck in contracts with no return on investments, no way to check if the work is getting done, and needing to invest more to make things right.

The following is a guide to Renna Media services and costs that you can compare to your present provider.

I highly recommend doing an independent audit of your website!

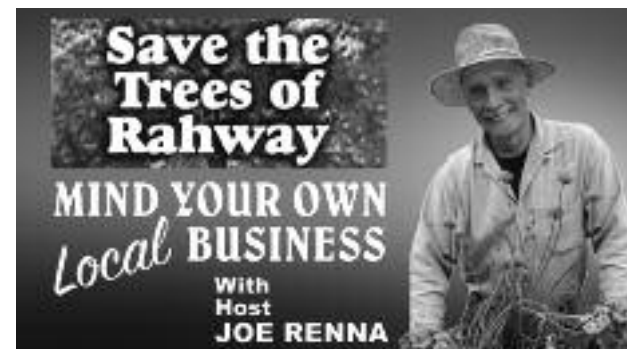
Contact Walter Watson at walter@www-online-enterprises.com

He does a great job analysing and making recommendations.

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



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- National Press Release Distribution
to 300 to 500 news outlets.....Budget choice from \$300 to \$500.

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

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

BOB MARKEY - SAVE THE TREES OF RAHWAY

During the past 20 years, over 2000 of Rahway's street trees have died or were removed and never replaced. Resident Bob Markey is producing a three-episode video which provides viewers with a sobering look into this serious crisis affecting Rahway's trees. The video also provides a toolbox to fix the tree problems and to rebuild Rahway's urban forest. There is a plan to accomplish it, but the effort needs help and support.

Markey states, "This crisis didn't happen overnight, nor is it the fault of any individual, city department or elected official. Over the years mistakes and oversights have been made."

The Arbor Day Foundation certified Rahway as a Tree City USA Community in 1997 with two primary requirements: Form a Tree Board and Enact a Tree Ordinance.

The video is to raise awareness and solicit help in the effort to rebuild, restock and restore Rahway's urban forest.

Folks can help by sending an email to Help@SaveTheTreesofRahway.org, and by subscribing to Save The Trees of Rahway YouTube Channel, and by following the group on Facebook.

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