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ERIN MCGEE TAKES OATH AS ADVOCATE FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Judge Marc Brown performs swearing-in via Zoom

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County has added five new child advocates to its roster, including Mountainside’s Erin McGee. The newly trained volunteers were sworn in by Judge Marc R. Brown via Zoom and Judge James Hely logged in to offer congratulations and thanks.

Said McGee, “I feel very lucky to be part of CASA because it’s an opportunity to practice my values each day. This is a unique opportunity to learn and provide support within our community by connecting with people on a personal level.”

She and classmates Cynthia Evans and Suzanne Staszak-Silva of Scotch Plains, Kevin Charles of Roselle and Kathy Davis of Roselle Park will be matched to one or more of Union County’s most vulnerable youth removed from home due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. Considered extra eyes and ears for family law judges, the advocates will be assigned to their youth by court order, which grants access not only to the youth but to their foster parents, doctor, attorney, caseworker, therapist and teachers. Advocates regularly visit youth and connect with the case stakeholders to determine any outstanding needs or concerns, then report to the court and make recommendations.

Successful advocates come from all walks of life and have varied backgrounds. Erin’s class ranges in age from 30s to 70s, are parents and non-parents, and bring backgrounds in management, coaching, publishing, the U.S. Postal Service and service with other nonprofits. One new advocate previously served with the CASA program in Essex County.

Executive Director Julianne Cherry noted, “This is our third class to be trained and sworn in virtually since Covid-19 emerged. While the power of a pandemic is undeniable – from impeding our ability to train in person and take oaths in court, to wreaking tremendous havoc and loss on our community, our state, our nation and the world – it is no match for the power of a community coming together to help those in need. This class is no exception: Despite personal, family and professional responsibilities, each has stepped up to help change the lives of Union County’s most vulnerable citizens, and I’ll let you in on a secret: It won’t be long before this journey changes their lives, too.”

There are approximately 400 Union County youth from birth to age 21 living in foster care, and each deserve the consistency of a caring, responsible adult in their corner. Is that you? For details on how to secure a seat in the next training, contact Abby at [agallego@casaofunioncounty.org](mailto:agallego@casaofunioncounty.org).



(above) Joining Judge Marc R. Brown, bottom row, center, are Union County’s newest child advocates: from left, top row, Cynthia Evans of Scotch Plains and Erin McGee of Mountainside; middle, Suzanne Staszak-Silva of Scotch Plains, Kathy Davis of Roselle Park and Kevin Charles of Roselle.

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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:**  
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## MOUNTAINSIDE POLICE WARN OF COMMON FRAUD SCHEME

*Submitted by Chief Joseph Giannuzzi*

On September 23 a senior citizen resident of Buffalo N.Y. contacted the Mountainside Police Department regarding bail money she had sent for her granddaughter via Fedex to an address in the Borough. She was making an inquiry as to when her granddaughter would be released from police custody once the money was received. Knowing there was no such person in custody police were able to determine it was an all too common fraud generally perpetrated against senior citizens.

Detectives from the Mountainside Police Dept. were able to track the package in the Fedex system which was scheduled for delivery that morning to an unoccupied home listed for sale. Officers then set up a surveillance of the home to await delivery of the package and to observe any actors retrieving it.

After several hours of surveillance four actors from Perth Amboy N.J. were observed retrieving the package minutes after the driver left it on the porch of the vacant home. As a result of this investigation \$7,800.00 in cash was successfully retrieved and returned to the 67 year old victim. The actors were charged with 3rd Degree Theft by Deception and 3rd Degree Money Laundering.

All actors were released without bail on a summons as per N.J. Court rules, the vehicle used in the crime has been seized by police who have filed for forfeiture of the vehicle.

These efforts by Mountainside Police have assisted many other police agencies in similar investigations.

Assisting in the arrest and surveillance were Sgt Michael Jackson, Corporal Shaun Bendik, and Police Officers Ryan Carr and Tristan Corigliano.

On September 23 Mountainside police received a telephone call from a victim in Chesapeake Virginia stating his elderly mother had sent cash money via The U.S. Postal Service to an address in the borough. The money was requested by actors posing as police as bail money for the victim's grandson. Family members learned of this transaction who were aware that the grandson was in Virginia and not in police custody.

Mountainside Police investigating the incident were able to recover \$4,800.00 in cash which will be returned to the victim. Police are continuing to investigate the incident.

The Mountainside Police urges anyone who receives a call of a family member requiring bail money that you confirm the phone number from the website of the police agency. An inquiry to the police agency holding the person should be made using the official number before any money is sent.

The Mountainside Police ask that you have a conversation with seniors and other people in your circle of family and friends regarding this all too common fraud.



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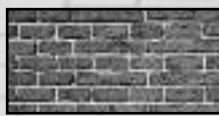
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(above) Scott Daniels, Chairman (left); and Bob Gardella, CARS coordinator, place signs announcing the Mountainside Restoration Committee's Fall CARS vehicle donation drive.

# YOUR UNWANTED VEHICLES CAN HELP SAVE HISTORY

The Mountainside Restoration Committee, Inc. has partnered with CARS, Inc. to raise funds by collecting unwanted vehicles. Anyone with unwanted cars, trucks, RVs, motorbikes, trailers, heavy equipment, etc. should consider donating to help the Mountainside Restoration Committee. The vehicle doesn't have to be in working order and will be picked up from wherever it is.

Why donate a vehicle? Donating an unwanted vehicle frees up garage or driveway space, avoids hefty repair bills, eliminates the hassle of selling it, historic preservation benefits, and a tax receipt is given. Furthermore, it couldn't be

easier - visit [mountainsidehistory.org](http://mountainsidehistory.org); or call (855)500-7433; schedule a free pick up; and when the vehicle is picked up; a donation receipt will be given.

The Mountainside Restoration Committee is a committee of volunteers whose purpose is to restore and maintain the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House and the Levi Cory House and collect and save historic information and items from destruction.

For information on the Mountainside Historic Committee events or to donate funds, please call (908)789-9420; or, go to: [www.mountainidehistory.org](http://www.mountainidehistory.org)

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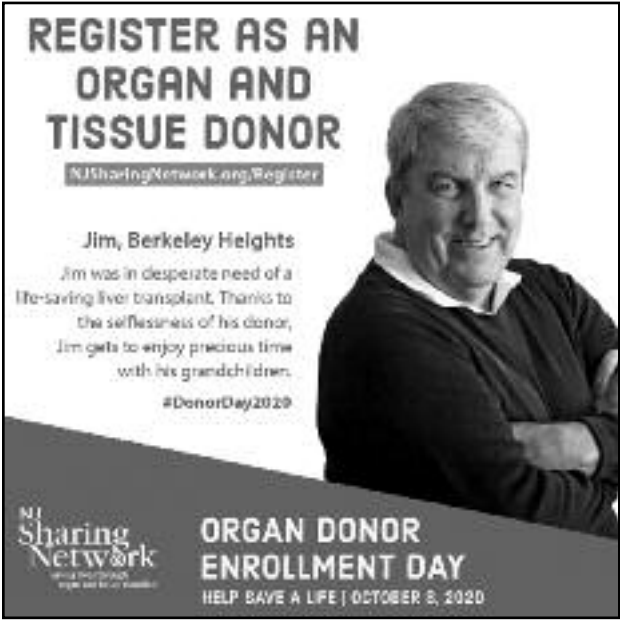
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# ORGAN DONOR ENROLLMENT DAY



(above) Jim Rhatican of Berkeley Heights was in desperate need of a life-saving liver transplant.

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On October 8, NJ Sharing Network and its many healthcare partners and volunteers throughout the state worked together to register organ and tissue donors in celebration of Organ Donor Enrollment Day. The non-profit, federally designated organ procurement organization set a goal of amassing at least 2,020 new donor registrations on 2020 Organ Donor Enrollment Day. The 2,020 goal helps create a positive spin on the number '2020' as opposed to the negative '2020' references seen virtually everywhere due to the challenges faced this year.

Currently, there are nearly 110,000 Americans – nearly 4,000 of whom live in New Jersey – waiting for a life-saving transplant. You can register to be a donor at any time by visiting [njsharingnetwork.org/register](http://njsharingnetwork.org/register).

"Organ Donor Enrollment Day is about taking action and inspiring others to learn more about how they can save lives through organ and tissue donation," said Joseph S. Roth, president and chief executive officer of NJ Sharing Network. "One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and restore health to over 75 people."

In New Jersey, one person dies every three days waiting for an organ transplant. However, the generosity of those in the Garden State is providing hope for the future. New Jersey's organ and tissue donor registrations continue to rise thanks to strong community education and outreach efforts as well as simplified ways to

register as an organ and tissue donor are also helping to save more lives. It is now easier than ever for New Jerseyans to register in any of the following options:

- Online at [www.NJSharingNetwork.org](http://www.NJSharingNetwork.org)
- Through the iPhone Health App
- In person at your local Motor Vehicle Agency

Another key component of Organ Donor Enrollment Day is encouraging those who register to have a conversation with their family and friends about their decision to donate.

"Donation provides comfort and healing to so many families after losing a loved one. It is so important to talk to your family and share your decision about organ donation so your gift is honored," said Carolyn M. Welsh, vice president and chief clinical officer, NJ Sharing Network.

**ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK**

Dedicated to saving lives through organ and tissue donation, NJ Sharing Network is the non-profit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue for the nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents waiting for a life-saving transplant. With headquarters in New Providence, NJ, the organization, selected by NJBiz as one of the state's "Best Places to Work" for the third consecutive year, is also part of the national recovery system, serving the nearly 110,000 people on the national waiting list. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit [NJSharingNetwork.org](http://NJSharingNetwork.org).

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## MOUNTAINSIDE BOY SCOUT TROOP 177



*(above) On September 26, the Mountainside Boy Scout Troop 177 enjoyed a full day of outdoors fun. The morning started with a great time canoeing on the Delaware River, followed by a Troop cookout back home in the Watchung Reservation, and ended with scouts completing virtual campouts in their own backyards.*

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## SUMMIT OLD GUARD NOVEMBER ZOOM EVENTS

The Summit Old Guard's weekly Tuesday meetings have continued through the use of ZOOM, and have attracted more than 100 viewers each week. Our November meetings will prove to be informative and enlightening. There is little limitation to our dynamic presentations as the viewers have, as before the virus, chances to ask questions of the presenter at the end of the meeting.

To gain access to the programs send an email to [info@summitoldguard.org](mailto:info@summitoldguard.org) and check our web site [summitoldguard.org](http://summitoldguard.org) for more information.

**NOV. 3** - How Crisis Accelerates Technology Change – Arun Sundararajan, Harold Price Professor of Entrepreneurship and Professor of Technology Operations and Statistics, NYU Stern School of Business, will use the COVID-19 situation as an example for his topic.

**NOV. 10** - Restoration of the WWII U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Lilac – Mary Habstritt, Museum Director and President of the Lilac Preservation Project, will describe the Lilac's historic and vital work of tending lighthouses and buoys from 1933 to 1972. She will describe the nonprofit preservation project's efforts to restore the Lilac and it's rare intact steam engines and review the cultural and educational programs provided by the museum.

**NOV. 17** - Driverless Cars - Just in Time for Us, Maybe – Alain L. Kornhauser, Professor of Operations Research and Financial Engineering at Princeton University, has been researching transportation for five decades and will talk about autonomous vehicles and 'SmartDrivingCars,' that will possibly reduce crashes, costs, and energy consumption.

**NOV. 24** - The Inside Story from a Federal Prosecutor – A retired assistant United States attorney will describe the Federal Court System and a Grand Jury. He will walk through a typical criminal case and provide perspectives on the rule of law and what an attorney has to do to uphold it and our democracy.

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## FREE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS FOR VISION LOSS

Vision Loss Alliance of New Jersey will be able to offer FREE virtual wellness classes, peer support groups and technology-focused offerings over Zoom thanks to a grant from the Grotta Fund for Senior Care. Anyone who has low vision in New Jersey, as well as out-of-state residents, can participate.

VLANJ offers virtual classes in managing grocery shopping, yoga, Zen, meditation and mindfulness. Additionally, their tech talk classes help people understand their tech devices and how to use them to connect to online events. The classes have been a hit, helping people with vision loss stay active, learn skills and connect socially.

Vision Loss Alliance of New Jersey is a nonprofit organization serving people who are blind or have low vision. Through the group's

programs, participants learn skills that allow them to manage their lives, and create a welcoming community in which they feel safe and supported.

The Grotta Fund provides its grantees with opportunities for technical assistance, learning, and networking with other non-profits. In turn, grantees are encouraged to promote the results of their grant, leverage funding, and sustain programs which have been funded by Grotta. The fund is administered through the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater MetroWest NJ.

To Register for Classes visit  
[www.vlanj.org/programs/](http://www.vlanj.org/programs/)

The post Vision Loss Alliance's Virtual Classes Get a Boost from Grotta Fund first appeared on Morris County, NJ.

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Each month, over 135,000 newspapers are mailed to every home and business in 21 towns. He also offers full color printing and mailing services as well as an online presence that parallels his print publications. Through these publications, Renna Media has focused on the needs of the local business owner offering customized, affordable, advertising opportunities. Joe Renna also helps his advertisers with their marketing plans as a value-added service.

Mr. Renna's presentation will address the different aspects of building a marketing plan and tuning up existing ones. The audience will leave with the information to guide them in developing a plan that will get them the best return for their marketing budget. The presentation will encourage questions from the audience and will address specific challenges facing participating business owners.

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## UNION COUNTY RESIDENTS JOIN LITERACY NEW JERSEY'S VOLUNTEER TUTOR PROGRAM

*Submitted by Nancy Lama*

Literacy New Jersey welcomes ten new volunteer tutors from Union County who have joined the ranks as English as a Second Language tutors after completing a 15-hour training course. The new trainees include Leah Brown, Joan Craig, Carolyn Daurio, Tom Ganley, Tom

Kaercher, Sherry Krakauer, Laura Lesniak, Ken Mirsky, Wilneris Santana and Teresa Tejada-Melo. The training prepares tutors to work with adults who struggle with reading, writing and speaking English. Literacy New Jersey tutors work in libraries, schools and church centers throughout Union County helping adults improve

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

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

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

Literacy New Jersey runs tutor training twice a year, in January and September. The training provides a practical, hands on approach to working with adults, and includes ideas for materials and activities as well as strategies for lesson planning. Previous teaching experience is not required. For more information on training and other opportunities at Literacy New Jersey, please call 908-486-1777 or email [bbagger@literacynj.org](mailto: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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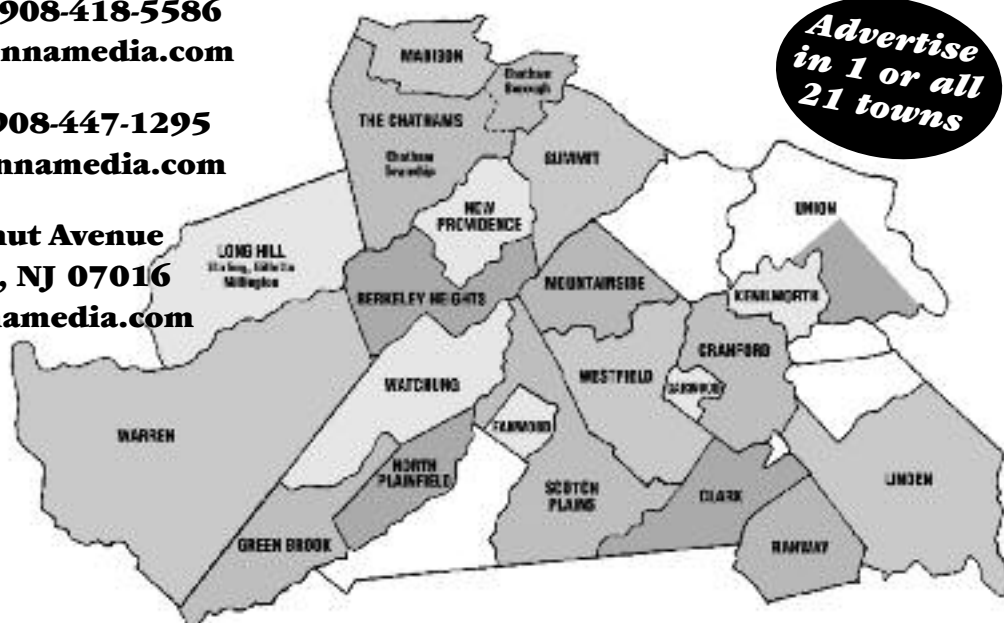
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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000
2 PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700							
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Too many carpetbaggers are exploiting business owners, making empty promises that don't materialize.

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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](mailto:walter@www-online-enterprises.com)

He does a great job analysing and making recommendations.

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Thank you. - Joe Renna

## Full Service Online Marketing



### Online Marketing Items

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- Special bulk price.....Block of 20 items \$100  
Including: Press releases / Classified Ads  
Web Page / Calendar Event / Monthly Banner ads

#### Extra Boost:

- Blast your online ad or press release to a targeted market: .....\$100
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### Website / SEO services

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- 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

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

**Call Joe Renna 908-447-1295**  
**Email: [JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com](mailto:JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com)**

## IMAGINE LAUNCHES SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR NURSES

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss announced the expansion of its virtual group support programs with one designed to help nurses dealing with the stressors of healthcare work during Covid-19. Imagine, which serves more than 2,000 individuals annually and is nationally recognized for its work helping bereaved children and their families, offers its Peer Support Group for Nurses at no cost. Interested nurses can join the weekly support group that takes place via Zoom from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

When asked about the decision to launch this program, Imagine's Founder and Executive Director Mary Robinson said, "Through the pandemic, we recognized a gap in support for some of the people we rely on most: our nurses. Supporting nurses who are themselves supporting grieving families felt like a perfect fit for our mission."

Robinson, who was named a 2019 CNN Hero, went on to say, "Nurses continue to selflessly care for others despite their own fears about their potential exposure to Covid-19. We need to ensure they have a place to turn to for support."

For many, the anxiety they feel going to work in a healthcare environment comes on top of grief they were feeling before the pandemic even hit.

Talia Sion, a newly minted nurse, had attended Imagine's Young Adult Group for support following the death of her mother in January, and then joined the organization's pilot support program for First Responders when the pandemic hit.

Of her experience, Sion said, "I was quickly overwhelmed with the weight of so many sick and unstable patients, not knowing if and when things would ever get back to 'normal.' Once again, Imagine created a program for me to turn to with people who understood how I feel; people who understood what I was facing on a daily basis at work."

The nature of the program's virtual environment breaks down geographic boundaries for those seeking support. Nurses from New Jersey and throughout the country are welcome to attend.

"New Jersey is no longer a hotspot for Covid-19, but many of the nurses here are processing what they went through and bracing for a possible resurgence," Robinson said. "Meanwhile, there are nurses in other states in similar positions to where we were a few months ago. Sharing these stories, fears, and challenges at all different stages in a peer support model is proven to be an effective way to learn coping strategies."

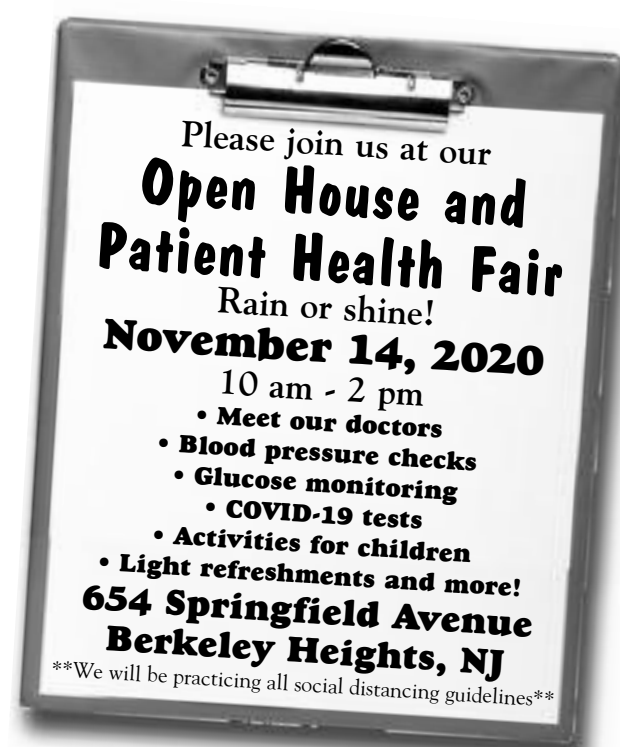
As with all of Imagine's offerings, this free Peer Group Support for Nurses program will be available year-round for as long as is needed. Those who are interested can register at [imaginenj.org/nurses](http://imaginenj.org/nurses).



Announcing  
**Edward Anthony Somma, MD**

Internal Medicine

New Office in Berkeley Heights



After graduating from medical school, Dr Somma served his internship in Internal Medicine at Trinitas Regional Medical Center. He then completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Seton Hall Post Graduate School of Medicine, where he was elected Chief Resident of Internal Medicine in his final year.

Dr. Somma has been in practice in Union and Middlesex counties for over 20 years, with an emphasis on excellence and compassion for his patients. He has served as the physician for the Elizabeth Fire Department, the Board of Health of Hillside and has served the Board of Education for Woodbridge NJ. He was granted the Humanitarian of the Year Award by Trinitas Health Foundation in May 2014, for his dedication to the community and his outstanding service to the goals of the Foundation.

Dr. Somma has special interests in various fields of Internal Medicine, including diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases and arthritis/rheumatology. He has represented to major pharmaceutical companies, such as Schering-Plough and Pfizer, in a consulting and educational role for his peers. Dr. Somma has been a clinical educator for Seton Hall's Physician Assistant Program and is an Associate Professor of Medicine for their Internal Medicine program.



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